FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FINANCE MINISTER MACHICADO, OFFICIALS RESIGN

PY261614 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 May 84

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Flavio Machicado has sent a letter to President Hernan Siles Zuazo, submitting his irrevocable resignation from his post.

Machicado says in his resignation letter that, unfortunately, the measures ordered by the government in order to normalize the functioning of the Bolivian Central Bank were obstructed when they were to be executed, and ignored for tactical reasons by the politicians to whom Your Excellency entrusted the treatment of this problem.

The letter continues: Considering that this situation deprives my ministry of its competence and authority and, consequently, makes it impossible for the head of the ministry to comply satisfactorily with his specific tasks, I find myself compelled to resubmit my resignation, which is now irrevocable, from my post as finance minister.

In a gesture of solidarity with the former minister, the higher officials of the Finance Ministry have also submitted their resignations. They are: (Rodolfo Barriga), under secretary for general coordination; (German Miller), under secretary for taxing policy; (Rodolfo Oviller), under secretary for monetary policy; general adviser (Rodolfo Cauas); (Gustavo Trigo), head of the Currency Exchange Department; and Central Bank president (Marcelo Salles).

Therefore, as of last night a cabinet crisis exists.

REGIONAL COB COMMITTEE BEGINS HUNGER STRIKE

PY251549 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpt] Workers of the regional COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] Committee of Central Southern Bolivia [Concejo Central Sur] who have arrived in La Paz joined the hunger strike which COB members began yesterday afternoon. The regional committee of Central Southern Bolivia first issued a 5-point document, demanding among other things the resignation of the economic cabinet for their (?involvement) with IMF representatives. They also demand from the government the immediate implementation of the emergency plan issued by the COB because it represents the only way to solve the crisis.

Miners Join Strike

PY251436 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpts] Another group of mineworkers has arrived in La Paz. Siglo Veinte miners arrived in La Paz yesterday and toured the main streets of the capital, and then held a rally at San Francisco Park. They interrupted traffic in the capital to make known their presence in La Paz and to report that they support the decisions adopted by the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB]. Thus they joined not only the demonstrations and rallies, but the hunger strike ordered by the COB.

Cristobal Aranibar, secretary general of the joint union of Siglo Veinte mineworkers, made a speech at San Francisco Park.

[Begin Aranibar recording] I want to stress on this occasion that some leaders identified with the government are trying to capitulate, thus betraying their commitment to the COB.

We want to propose, therefore, that those pro-government COB members must not participate in the negotiations with the government, because in one way or another they will support the interests of the government. [end recording]

Aranibar added that the workers must be alert so that the struggle undertaken by the COB will not be distorted or frustrated.

More Mineworkers Join

PY260331 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 84

[Excerpt] Thus far, approximately 1,000 state mineworkers have gathered at Governmemt Palace, Felix Calderon, secretary of cultural affairs of the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia, has told Cadena Panamericana.

The mineworkers come from different points in Bolivia, Calderon stated. They have moved to this city to demand from the UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity] government, led by Dr Siles Zuazo, that the contents of the economic measures enacted on 12 April be modified.

Seven hundred and fifty of the mineworkers who are in La Paz now have joined the voluntary hunger strike, thus following the resolutions of the recent COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] meeting. The mineworkers, as is the case with other sectors of salaried workers, repudiate the abovementioned measures and regard them as being unpopular, against the workers, and with an IMF slant.

CENTRAL BANK, STATE EMPLOYEES' STRIKE ENDS

PY251425 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpts] The hunger strike of Central Bank employees has been lifted. Today bank employees will resume activities. This is one of the first results of the dialogue between the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] and the Democratic and Popular Unity.

The strike of state employees has also been lifted. Activities will return to normal today. A truce has been adopted in this sector. It will not adopt any more coercive measures until talks between the COB and the government end.

DECENTRALIZATION PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS

PY251832 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Decentralization of the administration is a subject under discussion. President Siles Zuazo has stated that congress must decide on what has emerged as a proposal by the Santa Cruz Civic Committee and which was rapidly supported by other departments. The planning minister will call all departmental development organizations to see whether this proposal is technically and economically feasible.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1546 GMT on 25 May added the following information: "Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo reported today that Congress has been called to hold a special session on 3 July to discuss the administrative decentralization issue which, according to political observers, consists of a separatist offensive by radicalized sectors of Santa Cruz."]

FSB Wants Decentralization

PY261618 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] The Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] (?charges) that the country is being driven to total destruction as a result of the disorder, incompetence, and ineptness of an anarchic government. The ruling sectors are doing nothing but plunging the community of the nation into misery and ignominy, the FSB says. The present regime is discrediting itself and the image of the Bolivian community before the international community.

This opinion was expressed in a document released to the news media and signed by FSB Secretary General (Jose Luis Gutierrez Jordan).

The document maintains: The general situation is acutely felt in the cities of the interior as a result of a centralized policy which abandons the departments, as is the case of Chuquisaca which on the day of its civic anniversary only received promises, while there is a shameful struggle among officials (?imposed) by the Democratic and Popular Unity, and regional development programs for the solution of the most burning problems are totally abandoned.

At this time the people of the south, in Chuquisaca, Potosi and Tarija, are seeking regional integration and proposing administrative decentralization as a reply, not only on a departmental level but as a region, toward a solution to their backwardness and abandonment.

The FSB believes it is imperative to put into practice its government program of a real institutional transformation through administrative decentralization, the regionalization of the country and a new political division of the Republic in the framework of a new concept of geopolitics, economy, regional development, and national security, the document concludes.

MILITARY LEADER DISCUSSES ARMED FORCES' CONCERN

PY262348 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0234 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] La Paz, 25 May (TELAM) -- "The Bolivian Armed Forces are watching with concern the worsening of the political, social, and economic crisis which the country is enduring," stated General Alfredo Villarroel, commander in chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces.

In statements made during a public rally in La Paz, statements which were picked up by the press, Gen Villarroel stated that the provocation of the Armed Forces by terrorist groups have placed the Armed Forces in Bolivia in a state of readiness and have strengthened the military's decision to maintain peace and tranquillity, opposing anarchy in the country.

Gen Villarroel stressed that there is a deep concern in the heart of the Armed Forces because of the existence of groups who, under the shelter of democracy, stir disorder and do not respect the laws, and concretely charged the labor unions and the extreme political parties with deteriorating the consolidation of the constitutional process in Bolivia.

PINOCHET ADDRESSES SUPPORTERS AT RALLY

PY260325 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0155 GMT 26 May 84

[Address by President Augusto Pinochet to a progovernment rally at the Caupolican Theater in Santiago on 25 May -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr Justice Minister, leaders, ladies and gentlemen, my friends: [applause, cheers] In the past 10 years our powerful adversary has tried unceasingly to erase the defeat it experienced on 11 September. But unfortunately this foreign adversary is conniving with some of our own people, who are as much an enemy as they are. [applause]

These are gentlemen who do not hesitate to sell out the fatherland by taking money from abroad [boos], to beg for help from abroad. But the charity they receive, the shame that shrouds them, is repudiated by all good Chileans. [applause, cheers]

Don't you know that the bombs that they place in an arbitrary fashion [boos], the bombs that destroy so much, are paid for with money that comes from abroad? [shouts of "yes, yes!"] Don't you know that the war materiel they receive is financed with Russian dollars? [shouts of "yes, yes!"]

This is why the new terrorist law [audience chants "No, no" -- Pinochet corrects himself], the Anti-terrorist Law [applause, cheers], this new law [slogans heard in background] will allow us to use the strong hand you demand, and we will use it. [applause, cheers] Those who speak about human rights should say nothing against this since the first thing we must do to uphold human rights is to respect all (?Chileans). [applause, cheers]

My friends, on this special evening I urge all to support the government, the Chilean Government which is a government of the Chilean people. [applause, cheers] I want to tell you that this government will never surrender. [applause, chants] We shall comply with the Constitution, just as we promised to respect it on 11 March, 1981. [applause, cheers] Chile needs a strong democracy, a democracy that is protected from the actions of totalitarians, and it is with this democracy that we shall give an example to the world that has not understood our actions. [applause, chants]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON ARGENTINE PLANE INCIDENT

PY290205 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 28 May 84

[Excerpt] We reported previously through El Diario de Cooperativa that Horacio Domingorena, president of the Argentine State Airlines, has termed as impolite and intimidatory the Chilean decision to force one of its planes to land in Antofagasta while it was on an inauguration flight between Buenos Aires and Miami.

Now the Chilean Foreign Ministry has reacted to this statement. Our reporter, Carmen Castro, reports on this. [Begin Castro recording] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today considered as already past an incident that took place over the past weekend with an Argentine Boeing 727. According to reports from Argentina, the plane was forced to land in Antofagasta, and Argentina will submit a protest in this regard.

The foreign minister has just said that Chilean authorities enforced the appropriate rules, and that the Argentine plane unfortunately had no permit to overfly Chilean territory. The foreign minister added that the plane's passengers were treated cordially by Chilean authorities. He considered the incident over because no Argentine protest has been submitted.

The Chilean foreign minister added that this incident in no way should affect relations between Chile and Argentina, indicating that he talked on the phone with Argentine Ambassador to Chile Jose Maria Alvarez de Toledo, who said that no claim has been lodged, as reported previously. [end recording]

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW MEASURES

PY281353 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0342 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 25 May (EFE) -- Announcing credit facilities, an interest reduction, and longer debt reimbursement terms, Finance Minister Modesto Collados tonight said that an $8-billion debt is burdening the pockets of 1 million Chilean people and businessmen.

The credit facilities will range from electricity and water bills to mortgage debts and the major financial obligations of large business conglomerates. "The government believes," Collados said, "that these measures are a general, reasonable, and final solution to the excess indebtedness of individuals and enterprises. The government also calls on the people to join the patriotic effort to attain the economic reactivation the country requires."

Collados said that the credit facilities will be implemented in the next 2 months since the government must "enact some laws and sign the corresponding agreements." Collados also called "for businessmen from the various sectors to contribute to the national employment campaign by giving priority to hiring." He also announced that in the next few days the government will disclose a concrete formula for the employment campaign.

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TAKE OVER INTERVENED BANKS

PY290215 Paris AFP in Spanish 2019 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 28 May (AFP) -- The Chilean Government will not take over the five large private banks it has been administering since 1983, President Augusto Pinochet announced today.

The institutions were intervened early last year when they were on the brink of bankruptcy in the aftermath of bad loans made to enterprises interlocked with the banks. Three other financial companies in the same situation were liquidated, and the crisis stopped the foreign loans, thus worsening the country's recession.

Some 20 persons who were involved in those cases are still in Santiago prisons, including the most prominent Chilean banker, Javier Vial, and the former finance and economy minister, Rolf Luders, who was associated with one of the consortiums that went under.

The proposal that the government take over these five banks, among them the Bank of Chile which is the most important in the banking system, had been made so that the government may recover fiscal resources which were used to prop them up. The formula, which was drawn up by a government-appointed committee, was resisted by private bankers and businessmen alarmed by the eventual expansion of state ownership within the Chilean economy.

GOVERNMENT-REBEL TRUCE, CEASE-FIRE TAKE EFFECT

M-19, EPL Reject Truce

PA272348 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 May 84

[Excerpts] A general cease-fire between the country's regular forces and the various rebel organizations, to take effect only hours after the truce with the so-called Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, begins, seems a genuine possibility.

Spokesmen for the 19 April Movement, M-19, and the Peoples Liberation Army, EPL, hinted this afternoon at the possibility of a new meeting with political leaders and presidential representatives. Substantial advances could well be achieved, given the agreement of intentions that was reached last night when government officials and political representatives from the M-19 and the EPL signed a document committing them to continued negotiations for national peace.

The decision by the M-19 and the EPL to reject the government-FARC truce will not impede the peace process that is to begin tonight, according to Alvaro Fayad, the second in command of the M-19, a movement created by Carlos Toledo Plata, when Fayad demanded a different sort of peace agreement from that reached with FARC in La Uribe, Meta Department. We want a broader peace agreement, involving a far-reaching policy and genuine changes in the national situation. However, while this is being perfected, we will not hinder the pacification process that will begin on 28 May, even though we are not a party to the FARC truce, Fayad said.

Former Colombian Senator Alvaro Leiva Duran met with members of the Peace Commission and M-19 and EPL representatives last night in [name indistinct], near Bogota. He is seeking to promote the dialogue that began some time ago, in an effort to secure acceptance of a truce similar to that which was recently signed in La Uribe, Meta Department, by the government and FARC.

M-19 Leader on Agreement

PA260335 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 84

[Report by Oscar Dominguez]

[Text] Ivan Marino Ospina, foremost leader of the 19 April Movement, M-19, has reappeared; he called a press conference somewhere in Cauca Department. The political leader was interviewed by Maria Alejandra Gonzalez and German Mendoza Diago, journalists from the Popayan newspaper EL LIBERAL.

When Marino Ospina was asked about the peace process being negotiated with the government, he replied: The peace process being carried out in Colombia is complex. Peace cannot be achieved simply because one of the parties has good will. Peace is one of the conflictive issues that prevails in Colombia, that has prevailed in Colombia, and that no government has been able to solve. Belisario Betancur rose to power carrying the flag of peace. He is a new face, a new image, with many proposals for the country, but he has not really made it possible for the national government, as he calls it, to enforce a change with justice for all.

Ivan Marino Ospina was accompanied at the press conference by Navarro Ubols [not further identified] and other rebel leaders.

Marino Ospina also said: The M-19 has sought peace since it was founded; it has not always raised the flag of war, it has often raised the flag of peace. When the government talked about amnesty, the M-19 was the first movement that announced its acceptance of that amnesty.

He also referred to his dialogue with Alvaro Fayad and President Belisario Betancur in Madrid, saying: I had the opportunity to talk with the president in Spain and we reached some agreements. We talked about the kind of peace that the M-19 wanted, but the dialogue was not followed up in Colombia. In any event, we can declare to the Colombian people that we will hold a dialogue with the government, but not with the Peace Commission. Other organizations, such as the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and the ELN [National Liberation Army] have met with and reached an agreement with the Peace Commission. The M-19 did not sign the FARC-government agreement because we did not support it.

Marino Ospina was referring to the pact that is to take effect at midnight on Sunday. He added: The M-19 does not demand anything for the M-19; its demands are for the people.

Other reports reveal that, despite what Marino Ospina said, an agreement between the M-19, the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], and the government exists. Some of its foundations are that the parties agree that the cease-fire must take effect on the hour and date agreed upon, to be preceded by an appropriate period of time for the M-19 and EPL high commands to issue the necessary orders; that the government will call for a broad-based national dialogue, to include all necessary political guarantees; and that it will pursue the demilitarization of civilian sectors, as it is necessary to investigate the so-called paramilitary groups and to punish the culprits.

That is the information available to date, when we are nearing the date on which the FARC-government agreement will take effect. The agreement might also include two other movements, the M-19 and EPL, while the ELN has declared that it will not sign an agreement with President Belisario Betancur's government.

FARC Cease-Fire Order Ready

PA261644 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1533 GMT 26 May 84

[Excerpt] Bogota, 26 May (LATIN-REUTER) -- The self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's strongest guerrilla group, has told the government that its order regarding the cease-fire that goes into effect on 28 May, according to an agreement signed 2 months ago with the Peace Commission, is ready.

John Agudelo Rios, president of the commission that is mediating to secure peace between the government and rebel groups, told REUTER that "everything is ready" and the FARC will respect the agreements reached. According to a message sent by FARC Commander Manuel Marulanda Velez to the Peace Commission, the cease-fire order will be read before a group of journalists who will be invited to a place in the mountainous jungles of Caqueta, and will cover the 28 FARC fronts throughout the country.

Betancur Orders End to Fighting

PA?72320 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2259 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Bogota, 27 May (EFE) -- Today Colombian President Belisario Betancur ordered the Colombian military forces to end all hostilities, to permit the fulfillment of the agreement signed by his government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group.

The head of state, who is the supreme commander of the military forces, ordered the commanders of the country's air, ground, and naval forces to end their struggle against the subversives as of 0000 on Monday (0500 GMT), in compliance with the agreement reached with the foremost FARC leaders.

The 27 FARC guerrilla fronts will silence their rifles at the same time in a historic event for Colombia.

FARC ASKS BETANCUR TO LIFT STATE OF SIEGE

PA280337 Paris AFP in Spanish 0053 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Bogota, 27 May (AFP) -- The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) communist guerrillas, who will begin a 1-year truce at 0000 (0500 GMT) on Monday, asked President Belisario Betancur today to lift the state of siege.

The 12,600 FARC rebels, who are celebrating 20 years of the organization's existence today, conveyed their request in a message they sent to Betancur in which they order their 27 combat fronts to cease fire against the Army.

The rebel document explains that the state of siege is an "element that disrupts the FARC-EP [People's Army] agreement and a reactionary instrument against the people's movement."

The state of siege was implemented in Colombia on 1 May by Betancur after the murder of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla by two paid assassins from the drug-trafficking mafia.

The text of the FARC communique, released to AFP, is as follows:

"The general staff and the commanders of the 27 FARC fronts (FARC-EP), endorse with our signatures the cease-fire policy of truce and peace anticipated by our secretariat, and order all of our movements to cease fire against the adversary at 0000 on 28 May 1984, thus beginning a period of test or truce for 1 year.

"With this cease-fire order, our movement fulfills the basic part of the statement signed by the FARC-EP, the Peace Commission, and the government on 28 March 1984 in La Uribe, in the southeastern Province of Meta.

"In accordance with the agreement, the president of the Republic, in response to this patriotic gesture, will issue a similar order to the official Army, police, Air Force, Navy, and intelligence and official security organizations.

"We condemn the assassination of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla as a grave provocation, in opposition to Colombian people's desire for peace.

"In the same way, we demand that the state of siege be lifted, considering it an element that disrupts the FARC-EP agreement and a reactionary instrument against the people's movement.

"The Colombian people, with their actions, will be the principal protagonist and guarantor of the fulfillment of the agreement reached."

This document, which was issued in the mountains of Colombia, is signed by Manuel Marulanda Velez, alias "Tirofijo," supreme commander of the FARC; Jacobo Jacobo Arenas; Jaime Guaraca; and the commanders of the 27 fronts, among others.

Betancur Sets Conditions

PA280416 Paris AFP in Spanish 0242 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Bogota, 27 May (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur tonight announced that he will lift the state of seige, which has been in effect since 1 May, only when the minimal conditions for the security of the country's citizens reappear.

He also said that the return to a normal legal state depends upon the extent to which drug-related crime, "which is destroying our society," is uprooted.

Betancur made this announcement in a message to the Colombians on television tonight, announcing that at 0000 (0500 GMT) on Monday the truce with the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas will begin.

The FARC, composed of 12,600 men, will end their activities for a period of a year, during which the government will promote socioeconomic reforms.

"I offer this explanation," Betancur said tonight, "because the state of siege was established as a protective measure for the community and not for the government, which does not need it."

He said that the stability of his government, which took office on 7 August 1982 and which will end on the same date in 1986, "has not been threatened at any moment."

He admitted, however, that the murder of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla in Bogota on 30 April by paid assassins working for the drug-traffickers "was a terrible blow."

M-19 INTERRUPTS PRESIDENT'S TV BROADCAST

PA280325 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0259 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Bogota, 27 May (EFE) -- The 19 April (M-19) guerrilla movement interfered with the transmissions of Colombia's second television network moments before President Betancur addressed the nation to announce a truce with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

A mobile group from the M-19's communications team composed of at least a man and a woman, whose image could not be seen but whose voices could be heard, clearly read a 3-minute proclamation opposing the agreement between the government and the FARC.

The guerrillas said that peace will not be possible in Colombia "without a broad dialogue involving the participation of all, and guarantees of social improvement for the Colombian people."

The cease-fire agreement between the government and the FARC will take effect at midnight.

FARC LEADER INTERVIEWED ON CEASE-FIRE, TRUCE

PA282044 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1205 GMT 28 May 84

[Radio-telephone interview with Manuel Marulanda Velez, leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, by journalists Jamid Amat in Bogota and Carlos Ruiz in a FARC camp announced as located "in the Paramo de Sumapaz" -- live]

[Excerpts] [Amat] About 7 hours and 4 minutes ago, the cease-fire order issued by President Belisario Betancur to the country's regular forces and by the FARC Command to a little over 12,000 guerrillas went into effect. At this time, the CARACOL helicopter is in the Paramo de Sumapaz, where the peace agreement was signed between the FARC and the government Peace Commission. Carlos Ruiz is there with Manuel Marulanda Velez, Tirofijo. Let us go to the helicopter.

[Ruiz] Good morning, listeners, about 7 hours and 5 minutes ago the cease-fire between the FARC and the Colombian Government went into effect. At this time, [words indistinct] the FARC staff, the members of the biggest Colombian guerrilla group are holding white carnations as a sign of peace. At midnight, a 140-gun salute announced the beginning of the cease-fire. The salute came moments after hearing President Belisario Betancur over radio and television give the military men the order to stop the battles against the FARC guerrillas. At this time, for the first time in history in a direct radio transmission, we will interview Manuel Marulanda Velez. We are the only radio station that has direct communications with Bogota for this interview.

Good morning, FARC Commander Manuel Marulanda, Tirofijo. Colombians are asking today whether the FARC is going to respect the cease-fire that began 7 hours and 7 minutes ago.

[Marulanda] Yes, of course. The FARC is ready to fulfill the pact signed by the secretariat and the Peace Commission. We are in full agreement and we will fulfill it as much as possible [words indistinct] because we agreed with the government that it would issue the cease-fire order and we would also do the same, and from that moment a special phase begins with a year for verification. We are willing to fulfill this.

[Ruiz] From this moment, the order has been issued not to fire on the Army, but what will the FARC (?do this year)?

[Marulanda] As agreed with the government, this year we plan first of all to learn about the appointment of the national commission on the relocation of guerrillas. Once this has been done, we will make known the names of our members who will make up the local commissions in each of the [words indistinct] the cease-fire.

[Ruiz] What did you think of President Belisario Betancur's message last night to the nation announcing to the military men that they must stop fighting the guerrillas, and telling the Colombians that the peace process has begun?

[Marulanda] We heard part of the speech. We didn't hear the speech very well due to atmospherics. We thought it was very good because he is fulfilling what was agreed upon, that is, to issue the cease-fire order to the Army, the officers, the police, the Air Force, the Navy, and the state intelligence and security bodies. We thought this was very good because both sides are fulfilling the agreement.

[Ruiz] Last night President Betancur said that he was not going to lift the state of siege, which is one of the recent demands of FARC, because he needs the state of siege to fight the criminals and the drug trafficking. What does the FARC think of the establishment of the state of siege at a time when a period of peace is beginning?

[Marulanda] The state of siege always brings its complications, but with or without the state of siege, we have fulfilled what we agreed upon with the government. We do not think that the state of siege is very important [words indistinct] declared in the country to pursue drug traffickers, jail them, and take them to courts. The state of siege is not needed because drug trafficking [words indistinct]. The state of siege is going to [words indistinct]. So we have to ask the president that as a good-will gesture he do everything possible to lift the state of siege as soon as possible.

[Ruiz] The people think that with the announcement of the cease-fire you are going to come out to the public plazas to [words indistinct]. Jacobo Arenas [a FARC leader] this morning was telling the members of the FARC staff that a new phase of struggle, a phase of political struggle, is beginning today. You are momentarily, if it is necessary, abandoning the armed struggle?

[Marulanda] Yes, momentarily we have a pact with the government. We will make efforts so that this pact will be fulfilled by both sides, and in this 1-year (?test) period we will be doing everything possible [words indistinct]. This year will be devoted to verifying that cease-fire and truce and within [words indistinct] promote a platform that we want to present to the country and that we will be making known to promote a movement among the peasants, labor class, and the progressive and revolutionary sectors to achieve these objectives that [words indistinct] make them known to the parliament to debate them in the next few days.

[Amat] Would you please use this interview with CARACOL to tell the public just what it is that the FARC and the government have agreed to do, because documents are not always clear.

[Marulanda] Ues, of course. The FARC promises to cease firing as of now. The government also promises to cease firing. Subsequently, another series of talks will be held, through the creation of some government mechanisms and through our own contributions, so that this process that we have begun may continue.

[Amat] Some guerrilla sectors have not joined in your agreement with the government. For example, within the FARC, the group led by [name indistinct], the Ricardo Franco group, has emerged. The M-19 [19 April Movement], too, does not agree with the agreement that you have reached with the government. Neither does the EPL [Popular Liberation Army]. What would you say to those who insist on continuing the war?

[Marulanda] We think that they are free and independent and may think and [words indistinct] the government as they see fit, but the Ricardo Franco group, which calls itself a part of FARC, has nothing to do with our movement. It does not obey our orders or decisions, and it is not part of FARC. It has taken the name of the FARC guerrilla movement, of the staffs, and of some leaders so that it can claim to be a FARC movement in its propaganda. But it is not true.

As for the other movements, they are independent. They may think differently and propose various things. They might not agree with us in some proposals, but the essential thing is that they have the same rights as we do.

This is what I can say in answer to your question, Jamid.

[Amat] FARC has reached an agreement with the government and a 1-year truce has begun. Would you recommend that the Army of National Liberation [ELN], the M-19, the EPL, and other groups also reach agreements with the government?

[Marulanda] Yes, of course. This is our fundamental interest. We are interested in seeing them reach agreements with the government. This peace is not for us alone, but for everyone. We did not seek it for ourselves alone. It is not exclusively for the FARC, the M-19, the ELN, or other particular groups. It is our people's struggle, and thus we must seek all means of uniting, searching for solutions, and achieving peace in the country, in the interest of the popular masses.

[Amat] What will happen to the people who are currently being held by the FARC throughout the country? Will they be released today?

[Marulanda] We declared some time ago, and we have officially reiterated, that we are not holding anyone at the moment. For some time we have kept our promise to the public that we would not kidnap anyone, not hold anyone. We are holding no one. What is happening is that many groups are now staging kidnappings and doing many other things to hinder the agreement with the government, using our name. There is the Ricardo Franco group and others, such as the group calling itself the [name indistinct], another called the Shining Star [Lucero Luminoso], and a number of other organizations that are kidnapping people and claiming to be guerrillas. There are many that are kidnapping people and using our name. It is not we who are doing it.

[Amat] Obviously the verification commission that the president will create must verify that the cease-fire is observed by the regular forces and by your own. Can you tell us who will represent the FARC on that commission?

[Marulanda] At the moment, I can only state that those who will participate on the verification commission will be the secretariat of our central staff. We will be present there, but I do not now have the names of those whom we have already appointed to the local commissions.

[Amat] Mr Marulanda, the Revolutionary Armed Forces, which you command, have some 12,600 men in arms. What will be done with their weapons? What will the guerrillas who are in the mountains do? Are they going to come down to the cities? What will they do?

[Marulanda] Look, Jamid, we never discussed our weapons in all of the talks we held with the Peace Commission and with the government representatives. We did not talk about this. For the present, we will verify the cease-fire. We will have a year of truce and of testing, to see what will happen. If everything goes smoothly, which is what all Colombians want, we will sit down in a year's time and sign the peace document with the president of the Republic. Then we will indeed come out into the public squares and anywhere else we can go, in order to [words indistinct] to promote a broad mass movement for political, economic, and social redress, to seek the changes that this country needs, and to extricate ourselves from our current situation.

[Amat] Mr Marulanda, do you mean to say that you will be turning over your weapons within a year?

[Marulanda] We have not talked about turning over our weapons. Thus far, it has never occurred to us, and we have not discussed this in our talks with the government. What is most important to us is the cease-fire itself.

[Amat] Some people believe that since you, Jacobo Arenas, and Jaime Guaraca have been involved in this struggle for so many years, what you really are seeking is to retire from the guerrilla struggle.

[Marulanda] That is not our purpose. We have proposed both long-term and short-term objectives. When these objectives are achieved, we will have completed a phase of our struggle, and we will be proud of that. We are not seeking to retire, because we have struggled for 4, 5, 10, 20, 30, or more years. This is not what we want. If there are delays in the process, then others should carry it forward, if we can't. This is the most fundamental and most interesting aspect of this process, for no process can be stopped suddenly. No doubt some of us will grow old and will probably not feel able to continue this kind of struggle, but others, the new generation, will do so for us.

[Amat] What is your political affiliation? Are you a Liberal, Conservative, or Communist?

[Marulanda] Well, right now we are involved in a mass movement with no political affiliation. We don't care if a person belongs to the Liberal, Conservative, or Communist Parties. Our interest is in gathering everyone together in a productive and broad revolutionary movement, such as that which we have proposed. Our political affiliation will be defined later. Perhaps in a year we will definitely decide on which party we will belong to, or what kind of party we will organize, because creating a party in this country is quite complex.

[Amat] Has there been any struggle for the leadership of FARC in the 20 years you have been a leader?

[Marulanda] No, we have not struggled among ourselves for the leadership, because we have a special way of selecting our leaders. They are selected in popular elections at national guerrilla meetings. I have been chosen as the leader in all of these meetings, and in the same way, the other FARC leaders have been elected, in popular elections. Consequently, we have never fought among ourselves over our group's leadership. The important thing for us is not the leadership, but what we can do in defense of the people's interests; the leadership is not our main concern.

[Amat] Are you the armed wing of the Communist Party of Colombia, PCC?

[Marulanda] This is what several generals have said, but we have never confirmed this officially for the media, nor have we ever said so it in any document. The military commanders say this to justify their jailings of and repression against the PCC, its members, and organizations. We have never said that we are communists in an official document; these are charges made by the military command to justify repression and violence in our country.

[Amat] What about links with drug trafficking?

[Marulanda] We have no links with drug trafficking. These charges were made by the U.S. ambassador. This is an act of intervention in our internal affairs, which is unacceptable. Neither the government, the parliament, nor the Colombians themselves should tolerate the U.S. ambassador's meddling in our internal affairs.

If he wants to discuss politics, he should go back to his own country. The U.S. Government should already have summoned him for this, and should have asked him to resign. He has no right to accuse us of being drug traffickers, he is only a diplomat.

[Amat] Did you honestly think that you could reach power through the guerrilla movement?

[Marulanda] We have always thought so. When all other political and diplomatic doors are closed in our country, it is only natural to try to reach power through the means we have chosen -- armed struggle.

[Amat] I apologize for my frankness in the following question. You have said that FARC is not the armed wing of the PCC. However, for the past 25 years it has been said repeatedly that you have frequently traveled to Moscow and Havana to ask for help and to receive communist aid. What's the truth about this?

[Marulanda] I think that this was invented by the military command, because I have never traveled to Cuba or to the USSR to ask for help. I have never been in those countries; I have never left this country. I have always remained in the jungles, at the head of the guerrillas, dealing with our problems and directing our activities. We believe that our revolution should be directed from inside our country and not from abroad. Therefore, neither I nor any of my companeros have gone to Cuba or the USSR to ask for economic aid. We might like aspects of the Cuban and Soviet revolutions, but that's something else again.

[Amat] When and why did you become a communist?

[Marulanda] What do you mean? We have never confirmed this, and I'm not doing so now. What we have said is that as our process and circumstances develop, we will decide on the party we want to belong to, or we will create our own party, if that is what's best for the popular masses. All of our political sectors must be consulted, and we must see what the conditions are before making any declaration in this regard. We have not yet defined our position.

[Amat] May we ask you another question? You have said that you have never traveled to Havana or to the USSR. Could you explain, then, for our audience, where the funds and weapons that have kept the FARC going all these years come from?

[Marulanda, laughing] Oh, well, that's very simple. The funds that we acquired in the last 20 years were donated by peasants, by the working class, progressive and revolutionary sectors, and some wealthy people, even some industrialists, who have given us economic contributions. This is how we have kept our movement going and purchased our weapons. In truth, we only purchased some revolvers and pistols, because the weapons that we now have were taken from the Army in various clashes.

[Unidentified reporter] There is some concern here about the following: Actually and definitively, how many men are in FARC? The figure of 12,600 has been cited. How many men make up the FARC? How many have been killed in these 20 years of struggle?

[Marulanda] The High Military Command sometimes says that we total 10,000, sometimes 15,000, sometimes 16,000, and sometimes more, up to 20,000. However, the fact is that, as we have recently undertaken a massive recruitment effort and a great number of people joined the FARC's various fronts, we do not know the total figure. However, we [words indistinct] have 4,000 or 5,000 men.

[Reporter] Manuel Marulanda Velez, we want to ask you this question: What is your opinion of Bateman and the M-19?

[Marulanda] Well, we had a very good opinion of Bateman. We coexisted with him for a long time and fraternized with him. We lived in some camps with him. He was one of our companeros. Later, because of some differences with which I am not really familiar, he left. However, he continued to be our companero. As for the M-19, we have a very good opinion of it, because it is a revolutionary movement that is seeking fundamental changes in our country's structures, and we think that it is quite all right for it to develop its own policies.

[Second unidentified reporter] My question is this, Manuel: Recently several priests in Middle Magdalena were accused of belonging to the FARC and of serving as liaisons. What do you say to this?

[Marulanda] We believe that this charge was raised by the security corps, by military elements, because those priests were defending the masses, who are being and have been massacred by the paramilitary organizations. Therefore, in an effort to keep them from declaring as much and from defending the peasants who are being so harshly treated by the paramilitary organizations, they were accused of having links with the guerrillas. We know this much. This is the opinion [words indistinct]. This was an attempt to separate and even to jail them.

[Reporter] Mr Marulanda, the Armed Forces commands have said that the peace agreements can be carried out only if the guerrillas act honestly and sincerely and if they wholeheartedly undertake to build peace. Are you honestly and seriously entering the truce today?

[Marulanda] Yes. We have promised the people, the national public, the president of the Republic -- everyone -- that we are prepared to honestly fulfill the agreement as signed.

[Reporter] I would like Manuel Marulanda to address a message of peace to all Colombian men and women on this day of peace in our country.

[Marulanda] Throughout yesterday and today we have been addressing the Colombian men, women, young people, trade unions, political parties -- all of the Colombian people -- as well as the guerrilla organizations, and the entire FARC movement via the various media to inform them about our cease-fire document, prior to (?peace), which embodies great aspirations and hopes.

We are very grateful to the Colombian people who have listened to us, to the media, to CARACOL, and to the other media that have helped us. Thank you very much, and good-bye.

ATTORNEY GENERAL QUESTIONS LEGALITY OF DECREES

PA252253 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez has asked the Supreme Court of Justice to declare unconstitutional the decrees by which the trial of civilians who are accused of drug trafficking is to be handled by the military penal justice system, and to reexamine that system's power to hand down incommutable sentences of detention or imprisonment. The attorney general expressed this view after reviewing legislative decrees Nos 1041 and 1042 issued by President Belisario Betancur on the basis of Article 121 of the national Constitution, which declared that public order has been disturbed and that the entire country is under a state of siege.

In a statement for the newspaper TIEMPO, the attorney general (?explained) that these decrees exceed the powers that the national Constitution grants the head of state, in that they empower the military penal judges to judge civilians while ignoring specific prohibitions set forth in Articles 61 and 170 of the Constitution. It is his view that the government is also violating the national Constitution with decree no 1041, which permits incommutable sentences of detention of up to a year for those who either carry or wear disguises, hoods, or masks, or who trade in harmful substances without a permit by the appropriate authorities.

Further explaining this argument of unconstitutionality, Jimenez Gomez asserted that military law cannot keep ordinary judges from learning about common crimes committed by individuals who have no military rank, because this contradicts the principle established in Article 170 of the Constitution, in which the military penal justice system is applicable only to crimes committed by active duty military men.

According to the attorney general, it is not legally possible for the same person or entity to simultaneously exercise judicial and military functions.

LLOREDA ASKS U.S. HELP IN DRUG, CONTADORA ISSUES

PA252233 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo has requested the support of the U.S. Congress and President Ronald Reagan's government today in fighting the drug traffic and in promoting the Contadora process.

At a meeting with members of the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee, Lloreda Caicedo said that the United States should refrain from implementing measures that undermine the Contadora peace effort.

Meanwhile, in statements to the committee's working group for the international control of narcotics, the assistant secretaries for narcotics and for inter-American affairs today applauded President Belisario Betancur's efforts to combat drug trafficking.

FINANCE MINISTER: 'DEBTORS CLUB' NOT PLANNED

PA260251 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpts] Bogota -- Colombian Finance Minister Edgar Gutierrez Castro today held that the purpose of the planned analysis of the Latin American countries' foreign debt has been distorted, and said that there is no plan to create a debtors' club.

Gutierrez has indicated that plans have been made to establish a permanent communications system that will permit information exchanges on situations that might develop on the international financial market.

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] I have no news about this meeting being held in Bogota. I read about it in the press. We have been trying to create a coordination system by which to exchange information and to discuss issues related to international debt, the financial market, changes in interest rates, and their overall effect on the economic situation in the various Latin American countries. It cannot be inferred from this that we will create a debtors' club. That is not our purpose.

[Unidentified reporter] The text of the communique released by the four area presidents clearly mentions a meeting in which government ministers can determine what mechanisms are necessary to face this situation.

[Gutierrez] As far as I know, the meeting has been planned, but no date or place has been set. We are really thinking about a permanent way to maintain an adequate exchange of information among the various countries that (?suffer) from this problem. [end recording]

SOCIALIST BLOC URGED TO JOIN COFFEE ORGANIZATION

PA260430 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Colombia officially today asked the socialist bloc to rejoin the International Coffee Organization. President Belisario Betancur's message to Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko says: I am convinced that the 42 countries that depend on their coffee production for survival would consider this support fundamental to the health of their respective economic systems.

He also points out: This decision might lead to an increase in our economic and commercial relations.

Betancur charged that the terms of exchange for the developing countries have been subject to grave deterioration in recent years. They have also become a heavy financial problem, derived from the high level of those countries' debts and the exorbitant level of international interest rates.

INTELLIGENCE SOURCES REPORT ON SOVIET PRESENCE

PY281929 Lima OIGA in Spanish 14 May 84 p 5

[Text] Police intelligence sources have reported on the presence of several Soviet diplomats, military and commercial advisers, "journalists," and so forth in Peru. It has been learned that some 200 Soviet representatives are working at 12 offices located at different places throughout Lima. This number includes neither the military advisers and their families nor the numerous crew members of the fishing boats operating in our territorial waters under the terms of a contract signed with the Ministry of Fisheries. In addition, there are 6 communist press agents -- 2 from PRAVDA and 1 from each of the following media: TRUD, Moscow radio and television, TASS, and NOVOSTI. It is estimated that approximately one out of every three members of any Soviet mission is an intelligence official.

The Soviets are working in several places around Lima: the embassy, the consulate, and the apartment building are located at 3424 and 3516 Salaverry Avenue; the economic mission is headquartered at 390 Santo Toribio Avenue, in San Isidro; the commercial mission is headquartered at 420 Aurelio Miro Quesada Avenue; the Aeroflot office is located at the Civic Center; the office of Sovinca [expansion unknown], the company that runs the fishing boats, is located at the Callao Chamber of Commerce building at the corner of Constitucion and Jose Galvez, the port's highest building, where the Soviets have modern communications equipment; the news agency NOVOSTI is headquartered at 780 Prolongacion Arenales Street; the Soviet-Peruvian Cultural Association is headquartered at 774 Salaverry Avenue. There are also rumors that an office located in San Isidro has something to do with the Soviet military advisers.

Intelligence sources believe that the number of Soviet representatives will grow in the near future with a view toward lending support to the United Left in the 1985 elections, as occurred in Chile when Allende ran for president.

BELAUNDE SUPPORTS L.A. JOINT ACTION ON DEBT

PY251423 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Our country today expressed its support for the initiative of the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico for joint action on the Latin American foreign debt. President Fernando Belaunde Terry stated that in view of the economic and financial crisis, we must act as a great Latin American family. The president of the Republic made these remarks on inaugurating a seminar entitled: "For a View of Latin American Development With Self-Determination, Democracy, and Peace." It was organized to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Cartagena Agreement.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Popular Action Secretary General Javier Alva Orlandini has proposed a summit conference of Latin American presidents to discuss this issue here in Peru.

[Belaunde] Of course, all this is an issue that must be studied by the Foreign Ministry, or the foreign ministries. I think that if these meetings are held, they will not be at the presidential level, although it is probable that later they could be at the presidential level; however, all presidential meetings require great preparation. Thus, these meetings will probably be held at the ministerial level.

[Reporter] Mr President, do you think that it will be possible for Latin American countries to form a common front to face their foreign debts?

[Belaunde] In fact, the front has been formed for a moral purpose. We all agree on this, and I think that this unity will have very important effects.

[Reporter] Has the OAS agreed to prepare a plan for this crisis [words indistinct]?

[Belaunde] Well, this is very important because it is general. It does not exclude any country in the hemisphere.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] regarding the signing of new agreements with the IMF on the foreign debt?

[Belaunde] Well, the theory of austerity without recession is the first step. We have already implemented it. It offers nothing but advantages. I suppose that other countries are taking the same path, although they use different words. All seek the same objective. [end recording]

President Belaunde also referred to the Civil Guards' situation. He said that they will not strike, because the Civil Guard is an institution aware of its task to serve the citizenry.

[Begin recording] [Belaunde] The Civil Guards are a disciplined body that has a command with great (?authority). In all institutions there are impatient persons. We are all suffering discomfort in Peru. I am aware of this. So, we have to undertake with a spirit of patriotism and sacrifice...

[Reporter, interrupting] Will they strike?

[Belaunde] No.

[Reporter] The report on resumption of negotiations between Peru and the United States on air traffic...

[Belaunde, interrupting] I said before it will only be on the basis of reciprocity. We give something and they will have to give exactly the same or the equivalent.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Belaunde] We want the same freedom they have to collect passengers here to take them to another country. They will also have to give us the same freedom to collect passengers in Miami and take them to another country. [end recording]

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY ON AIRLINE CONFLICT

PY261608 Paris AFP in Spanish 2244 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Lima, 25 May (AFP) -- In a communique issued today by the Peruvian Transportation and Communications Ministry there is no mention of a prospective settlement in the air transportation war that broke out between the United States and Peru on Tuesday, 22 May.

The communique, which was delivered to the press by Transportation and Communications Minister Carlos Pestana, makes no reference whatsoever to the possibility that commercial flights -- flying either passengers or cargo -- or negotiations between the two countries will be resumed shortly. The air connection was broken on the above-mentioned date when the United States canceled the licenses for the Peruvian enterprises Aeroperu [Peruvian State Airlines], Faucett, and Aeronaves to operate in U.S. territory. Peru countered by canceling the flight licenses for Eastern and Challenge Air Transport.

The Transportation and Communications Ministry reiterates, in [word indistinct] the Peruvian stand in this conflict by stating that it is aimed at enhancing the commercial airline relations between our two countries on terms that are fair and equitable and do not hurt our sovereignty. On the other hand, the Peruvian Government maintains that the U.S.-Peruvian agreement on air transportation, which has been in effect since 1946, has been an unending source of conflict resulting from the existing imbalance in the traffic fees, which favors the United States. The failure to renew that agreement, which was denounced by Peru last year, brought on the current conflict. While the Peruvian authorities insist that the Peruvian airlines be given access to other U.S. cities besides Miami, the U.S. authorities want Eastern to be allowed to fly passengers from Lima to Buenos Aires and Challenge to be allowed to fly between Panama and Lima.

In turn, the Transportation and Communications Ministry denounces that the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board conditioned the extension of the provisional agreement, which has been in force since the [1946] agreement expired, to Peru's granting the U.S. companies a license to service Buenos Aires and Panama.

In a formal and substantive manner, Peru can in no way accept such conditions, the communique states.

NEW POLICE UNIT TO DETECT DRUG TRAFFICKERS

PY251429 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca today announced the creation of the Division of Financial Investigation of the Peruvian Investigative Police to detect persons with suspicious fortunes who obtain money through drug trafficking. Percovich said that these persons disguise their illegal dealings by carrying out other types of commercial activities with the purpose of laundering their money. The minister added that yesterday he forwarded a draft bill to the Senate seeking an amendment to legislative decree 046 concerning the law on terrorism and the law on repressing illegal drug trafficking.

PPC LEADER TO HEAD DELEGATION TO EL SALVADOR

PY281248 Paris AFP in Spanish 0040 GMT 27 May 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 26 May (AFP) -- Popular Christian Party (PPC) leader Luis Bedoya Reyes will head the Peruvian delegation that will participate in the inauguration of Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte, President Belaunde announced here today.

PARTIES AGREE TO OPPOSE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

WA231100 Rome IPS in English 23 May 84

[Text] Montevideo, May 23 (IPS) -- Uruguay's political parties agreed last night to stand together against the military government's plans to reform the Constitution, and for a resumption of talks with the opposition. The Colorado, National and Civic Union Parties, which are legal, agreed with their outlawed allies in the Broad Front Alliance to insist that neither parties nor individuals should be banned at next November's presidential elections.

Party leaders issued a statement on their counterproposals to the government but declined to make comments to the press. They said they will meet again May 29 to continue discussing their reaction to the regime's proposals.

The National Party, the largest political party, rejected the government's proposal that the Constitution be amended to embody a national security doctrine which would legalize the National Security Council (COSENA) on a permanent basis and would allow military court to judge civilians. The Armed Forces also proposed abolishing the legislature's power to grant political amnesty and create a constituent assembly which would operate alongside the national congress.

Colorado and Civic Union leaders said that, although the military's document contains "unacceptable" proposals, it also proposes resumption of political talks, which both parties deem necessary for reaching agreement on various issues prior to the Nov 25 elections. The military government announced a political timetable in 1982, scheduling elections this November and a return to democratic rule in March 1985. But Armed Forces spokesman have hinted that the elections may be postponed unless an accord is reached with the political partis before November.

The party's brief statement last night said that the groups "agreed to express their will to act in a concerted way" and to demonstrate their "hope that the Nov 25 elections will take place with no exclusions or conditions and will not depend on any accord."

"Any eventual constitutional reform must, in any case, be submitted for ratification by a plebiscite," it said. The party leaders "will continue their deliberations on the future of the country's government and the guidelines for appropriate political action," the statement added.

The military took control of the Uruguayan Government in 1973. The current head of state is Gen Gregorio Alvarez. About 90 percent of Uruguayans are dissatisfied with military rule and want a return to democracy, according to recent polls. The national; Party's presidential candidate, Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, was forced into exile a decade ago, and now lives in London.

THOUSANDS DEMONSTRATE; NO INCIDENTS, ARRESTS

PY280330 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0215 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Montevideo, 27 May (EFE) -- The Uruguayan authorities tonight mobilized the police in the downtown area of Montevideo to prevent unauthorized opposition demonstrations at the end of the day of protest against the military regime that was organized by the political parties and social organizations.

The protest of the Uruguayans was very noisy, starting in the early evening when the programmed "pots and pans concert" was conducted massively by the people.

The day of protest, the third one this year, was carried out 6 months before the elections that have been promised by the military and which will put an end to 11 years of dictatorship.

The police did not intervene directly against thousands who spontaneously took to the streets in a demonstration that indicates that the fear of repression has considerably decreased. The first banging of "pots and pans" was carried out in darkness and from inside the houses, but today's concert was carried out in the streets, and groups of youths concentrated at several strategic crossings to sing slogans against the military government. Placards with petitions for amnesty and freedom for political prisoners and demands for elections without proscripts and an end to press censorship and the closure of publications that publish news about events that the government wishes to keep silent were set up in all public parks. The police withdrew the placards from several points throughout the city, but there were no incidents or arrests.

The labor unions were the most active during the protest. These included the groupings of the banned leftist coalition Broad Front and people who support the exiled Blanco leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate.

The protest was organized by all the political parties with the exception of the Social Christian Civic Union, which does not accept the petition for an amnesty for the Tupamaro guerrillas that are serving sentences in the jails of the regime.

The Civic Union accepts an amnesty for the political prisoners, but not for the guerrillas, and this is something that has not been appropriately clarified by the other parties.

Blancos and Colorados have made no public statement regarding the topic of the Tupamaro guerrillas, although during their meetings they have indicated that they accept the amnesty, but they have made no clear definition regarding this point. Where they are clearly in agreement is in the petition for an end to the dictatorship and the rehabilitation of all political groups so that a democracy can be implemented without the tutelage of the military.

FERREIRA'S RETURN ANNOUNCED FOR 16 JUNE

PY251733 Montevideo El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 May 84

[Relay by special correspondent (Carlos Menguele) in Concordia, Argentina]

[Excerpt] Proscribed National Party leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate's return to Montevideo has been confirmed for Saturday, 16 June, at 1130. This information was disclosed by El Espectador during its usual "A Toda Hora" program, and has just been confirmed by sources closely related to the Blanco Party leader here in Concordia, Argentina.

BRIEFS

MEAT EXPORT FIGURES -- INAC, the National Meat Institute, has reported that almost 16,000 tons of meat and meat by-products for more than $17 million were exported in April. INAC also reported that 65,000 tons of meat and meat by-products for $74 million were exported during the first 4 months of 1984. [Text] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 84 PY]

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS GIVE AD MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

PA281239 Paris AFP in Spanish 0346 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Caracas, 27 May (AFP) -- The ruling Democratic Action (AD, Social Democrat) party obtained 46.3 percent of the valid votes in the federal district (Caracas), according to the first official bulletin on the municipal elections released tonight.

The AD will thus control the Caracas City Council, the most important in the country, although its victory was less overwhelming than in the provinces, where in today's municipal elections it secured control of 198 of the 202 council seats throughout Venezuela, according to unofficial returns. At the national level, AD will apparently secure more than 55 percent of the valid votes. According to the first official bulletin, the parties that won council seats in Caracas are as follows:

Party	Percentage
Democratic Action (AD)	46.3
Social Christian, COPEI (Christian democratic opposition)	20.6
Movement for Socialism, MAS (marxist heterodox)	7.3
National Integrity Movement (center right)	6.8
National Opinion Party, OPINA (right)	6.2
United Left Coalition (including communists)	4.5
Democratic Republican Union (centrists)	4.2

Democratic Action will have at least 14 of the 25 council seats in Caracas.

CHANGES IN MILITARY COMMAND EXPECTED IN JUNE

PA260426 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 13 May 84 p 1-1

[Text] Army Division General Alfredo de Jesus Quintana Romero will become the Venezuelan defense minister on 29 June. He will replace Division General Humberto Alcalde Alvarez, who will retire after 30 years of service.

According to reliable sources consulted by EL UNIVERSAL, the new military high command appointed by President Lusinchi will be as follows:

Defense Minister: (Army) Div Gen Alfredo de Jesus Quintana Romero
Inspector General of the Armed Forces: (Air Force) Division General Carlos Pinaud Arcila
Chief of Joint Staff: Vice Admiral Haroldo Rodriguez Figueroa
National Council of Security and Defense: Vice Admiral Luis Eduardo Brito Martinez
Army General Commander: Division General Jose Antonio Olavarria
Navy General Commander: Vice Admiral Justo Pastor Fernandez
Air Force General Commander: Division General Pascual Azara Azara

FAC [Armed Forces of National Cooperation] (National Guard) General Commander: General Jesus R. Fernandez Correa, or General Jesus Vargas Chirinos (they will both be promoted to division general in July)

Institute of Higher Studies for National Defense (IAEDEN): Division General Luis Felipe Lanz Castellanos.

ENVOY TO U.S. ON IMPACT OF DE LA MADRID'S VISIT

PA250351 Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 21 May 84 pp 1, 17

[Article by Isse Nunez]

[Excerpts] Washington, 20 May -- After President Miguel de la Madrid's successful visit to Washington and his meetings with President Reagan, everything indicates that an important number of new direct U.S. investments will be made in Mexico. This was predicted here today by Ambassador Jorge Espinosa de los Reyes, chief of the Mexican mission in Washington, during an interview granted to NOVEDADES at the Mexican Embassy.

The ambassador reported an important fact: Last year there were 17 controversies involving Mexican-U.S. trade. They were all the result of Mexican complaints over the establishment of compensatory taxes and other protectionist measures. The 17 cases, the ambassador said, have been satisfactorily settled in line with our country's interests.

The pending cases that do not involve trade controversies are now going well. De la Madrid stressed the existing problems to such an extent that according to Ambassador Espinosa de los Reyes it is possible that satisfactory solutions will be found in the coming months. With the exception of the case of Central America, which is being handled through the highest political and diplomatic channels and for which there is no important controversy on the substance of the issue but rather on form, the other pending problems between Mexico and the United States are being solved every day.

The main problem would be in the commerce between the two countries. The situation stems from Mexico's decision not to join the GATT. However, through the trade understanding that was achieved during President De la Madrid's visit to Washington, definite progress has been obtained.

Ambassador Espinosa de los Reyes believes that the old problems of trade protectionism by the United States against Mexico are becoming a thing of the past. With the understanding that was achieved, the U.S. producers who are inclined to demand protection from their government as soon as some of Mexico's products reach the U.S. market will have to be careful in the future about what they do and say because in each case they will have to present proof of the possible damage that the presence of Mexican products in the United States might cause them.

The diplomat is convinced and told NOVEDADES that new and broad prospects are being opened in bilateral trade relations, and that this should lead to new forms of reciprocal friendship between the United States and Mexico.

Espinosa de los Reyes stressed that the president's visit can give way to a new atmosphere in bilateral relations, one that will lead to new direct U.S. investments with full respect and confidence in Mexico's economic recovery. "We have extensively pointed out in this country that the investments that are made in Mexico must fall within what is established by the corresponding law. They must also fulfill specific characteristics. We want the new investments to be complementary to the national investments and to bring in the most modern technology," Espinosa de los Reyes said. He added the following: "The foreign investment that goes to Mexico should produce many new jobs and be oriented to the industrial fields that we need to develop."

HEADS OF STATE CONGRATULATE ARDITO BARLETTA

Al-Qadhdhafi Dispatch

PA260343 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 May 84 p 5

[From the "Reporters' Notebook" column]

[Text] "In view of your victory in the recent presidential elections in the Republic of Panama, I am pleased to send you my most sincere congratulations. I hope that we can strengthen the cooperation between our peoples and countries during your tenure as president."

This dispatch was sent by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Al Fatah revolution of Libya, to Panama's President-elect Nicolas Ardito Barletta.

Alfonsin, Cyprus President Notes

PA262140 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 May 84 pp A 1, A 12

[Excerpt] The following are congratulatory messages received by the president-elect of Panama.

From the president of Argentina:

Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta,
President-elect of the Republic of Panama

Mr President-elect:

On behalf of the Argentine Government and people and on my own behalf, I am pleased to cordially congratulate you on having been elected president of the sister Republic of Panama in the 6 May elections. While wishing you success in your future endeavors, I also wish to state my government's willingness to strengthen our bilateral relations in all areas of common interest, and to promote efficient international actions to consolidate regional peace and security and to promote the political, economic, and social development of our people. I salute you, Mr President, with my best regards,

Raul Alfonsin,
President of the Republic of Argentina

From the President of Cyprus:

Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta,
President-elect of the Republic of Panama

On the occasion of your election as president of the Republic of Panama, please accept our warm congratulations and best wishes for success in this high task, for the benefit of the friendly people of Panama and for even stronger relations of friendship and cooperation between our two nations.

Spyros Kiprianou
President of the Republic of Cyprus
25 May 1984

ARIAS PLEA TO REVOKE PROCLAMATION REJECTED

PA250416 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 May 84

[Interview with Panamanian Electoral Tribunal Magistrate Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, by Manuel Santamaria]

[Text] During a meeting held this afternoon in an atmosphere of harmony, understanding, and cordiality, the three magistrates rejected the plea presented by Dr Arnulfo Arias agains he Electoral Tribunal's proclamation that recognizes Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta as president-elect, Eric Arturo del Valle as first vice president, and Dr Roderick Esquivel as second vice president of Panama in the 6 May elections.

We received the information regarding the rejection of Dr Arias' plea in an exclusive manner when we found Magistrates Cesar Quintero and Rolando Murgas in Magistrate Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez' office. When we asked Magistrate Yolanda Pulice de Rodriquez about the plea, she said:

[Begin recording] [Pulice de Rodriguez] Yes, Mr Santamaria, we received from the General Secretariat assessment [reparto] No 202 that refers exclusively to the nullity of the proclamation included in Resolution 235 released by this Tribunal, which was presented to the General Secretariat yesterday by Jose Salvador Munoz in representation of Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid. This assessment falls under my jurisdiction, and another assessment regarding the same subject falls under Magistrate Rolando Murgas' jurisdiction. At the moment you arrived in my office we were putting final touches to the decision on this file. The decision consists of the rejection by the Electoral Tribunal of the plea presented by Salvador Munoz requesting that the Electoral Tribunal revoke the proclamation of Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta, Roderick Esquivel, and Eric Arturo del Valle.

As you can see in this document of approximately six or seven pages, the final and clear account of all that has occurred since 6 May is included. The document includes all the information gathered from the voting tables, which was sent to the Circuit Vote Counting Boards and later to the National Vote Counting Board. For reasons that everyone is quite aware of, the National Vote Counting Board sent all this information to the Electoral Tribunal, and since many minutes had been challenged the Electoral Tribunal had to take over and decide on these challenges and later proclaim the winners of the 6 May elections. In this manner the Electoral Tribunal ends another phase of its work, definitely rejecting the request of Salvador Munoz; and in the case of Magistrate Rolando Murgas, the request presented by Mr Lima has also been rejected. Later we will send you copies of these documents so you can publish all the material approved jointly by this institution and its three magistrates, which you have just seen in my office.

[Santamaria] Now that the plea presented by Dr Arnulfo Arias and his vice presidents, through his lawyer, has been rejected, when will Dr Barletta receive his credentials as president-elect of Panama?

[Pulice de Rodriguez] We have to first present the notification, and following this there is a period for an appeal of reconsideration [recurso de reconsideracion]; therefore, in a few days, if these persons do not agree with what we have just approved, they can appeal before the Electoral Tribunal, and the tribunal is obliged to respond. Maybe on Monday we can begin thinking about the credentials. I say Monday because we are working on Saturday and Sunday. [end recording]

MINISTER ANSWERS RESIGNING TRIBUNAL OFFICIAL

PA251947 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 May 84

[Letter from Presidency Minister Gustavo Gonzalez to engineer Roberto Reyna, former alternate Electoral Tribunal magistrate, date not given; read by announcer]

[Excerpt] Engineer Roberto Reyna, Capital City

Engineer Reyna:

I hereby notify you that this office has learned about the letter you addressed to Dr Jorge E. Illueca, president of the Republic, which was also published in today's edition of the newspaper LA PRESNA. In this letter you tender your resignation from the post of alternate Electoral Tribunal magistrate, to which you were appointed by the then-president of the Republic, Ricardo de la Espriella Toral.

The Panamanian people who are the supreme judges, will regard your resignation as, frankly, untimely, as it is well known that this resignation should have been tendered on 20 May 1983, when the constitutional reforms were promulgated.

You cannot be ignorant of the fact that, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Article 136 of the Constitution currently in effect, and with Ordinal 7 of Article 312 of that fundamental statute -- which did not relieve alternates from having to comply with this requirement -- you should have proven that you were a lawyer with a university degree, something which you neither did nor could have done because your profession is that of engineer.

In compliance with my duty, I hereby notify you that your resignation will be duly handled and that the executive branch will proceed to appoint two alternate magistrates, as established in the national Constitution.

Sincerely,

[Signed] Gustavo R. Gonzalez, Presidency Minister

EPISCOPAL DECLARATION ISSUED ON ELECTIONS

PA272124 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 May 84 pp 14 A, 15 A

["Episcopal Conference Declaration on the Electoral Process" issued in Panama City -- date not given]

[Text] I. Introduction

Our letter on the political situation:

1. In our pastoral letter of 5 February 1984 on "The Present Political Situation," we said that "the present political juncture is important" (Article 2): After 16 years, national elections were going to be held. We invited the candidates, the parties, and the people themselves to "provide programs to face up to the vital issues in our country. (Article 3)

We noted at the time, and we now repeat, that "as pastors, we believe in the Panamanian people, and thus we venture to issue an appeal to build the future..." (Article 4)

2. To this end, we noted some of the main problems with which the country is faced, and appealed to everyone to subject those problems and others to serious discussion during the electoral campaign.

3. One of the problems that we noted was the lack of "political culture;" that is, the lack of certain clear principles and, therefore, the failure to observe and enforce those principles, which is necessary for building "...a political, economic, and social democracy that recognizes the inestimable value of the individual, guarantees the well-being of all, and impels them to achieve general advancement in a climate of concord and harmony." (Article 1 of pastoral letter, 1978)

4. The second part of that letter contained a doctrinal reflection on the principles and values that, according to our Christian faith, are the outgrowth of the dignity of each human being as a child of God, and that make up the bond of justice and fraternity that unites us in society. These principles must guide our lives in the social and political areas.

5. We emphasized that it was not up to the church to draft specific economic or political plans or to favor one particular party or candidate. However, we reaffirmed "the church's duty to guide the faithful in all matters concerning morality, in any field..." (Article 1) and said that "in this broad sense, politics are of interest to the church and, therefore, to its pastors, who are ministers of unity." (Article 26)

On the Elections

6. With regard to the elections, we insisted that "democracy is not merely the convocation of honest elections; it must go further. It must promote the common welfare of society" (Article 26ch); that is, it must promote the enhancement of the community within an authentic economic, social, and political democracy. This requires the active participation of all individuals, both personally and through civic and occupational organizations.

No elections, no matter how free and democratic, are sufficient to guarantee real democracy in a country. However, the election of our national and local leaders is very important, as long as we select them responsibly and entrust them with performing common civic and social tasks.

Political Power and the Common Good

7. We noted that service should be a characteristic of political power... "It is not an end in itself; it is a means of promoting the common good. Those who exercise it must account to the people for their actions. Those who seek power through electoral campaigns must obtain it not by purchasing it but through honest elections, based on the objectives and programs that the candidates and their parties offer to the electors." (Article 26ch)

Avoid Confusing the State With the Government

8. We warned against confusing the state with the government. "The state (or the nation) is comprised of all the people, living on their own territory, with the government that they have chosen. The government is not the entire state. Instead, it is derived from the people and must watch over the good of all." (Article 26a)

Civic Exercise in Introspection

9. In view of these reflections, we ventured in February of this year to invite "all of the country's sectors to a civic exercise in introspection, asking ourselves: Where are we going, what do we want, and how are we going to build our nation?" (Article 41) We made a special appeal to the government, the political parties, the people, the electors in general, and the media, calling for freedom, honesty, equal opportunities for expression and participation, mutual respect, and serious proposals for the good of all. We also reminded them that "an honest process demands absolute respect for the popular verdict in the elections, and compliance with all requirements of the process." (Article 33)

II. Reflections on the 6 May Elections

10. No one could expect the short electoral campaign period in 1984 to adequately remedy the lack of what we have called the "political culture" for a genuine democracy. One could, however, expect a noticeable advance along the path to true "democratization."

The pastoral letter was received enthusiastically by all of the country's rectors. However, there was fear that the electoral campaign and the elections could degenerate into the politicking, vengefulness, and manipulation that characterized the past. An entire generation of Panamanians who were going to vote in national elections for the first time, as the majority of voters, had the right to expect that such abuses had been corrected.

A. Positive Aspects

Interest and Conduct of the Electorate

11. The fact that the first direct election of the president of the Republic in 16 years was to take place was in itself a great step forward toward democratization. The interest of the electorate, including that majority of youths who were voting for the first time, resulted in a high percentage of participation, despite the problem of those who did not appear on the electoral lists even though they had been counted in the census. The conduct of the voters on 6 May was exemplary. Throughout the Republic, they demonstrated interest, hope, order, and respect.

Participation in the Preelectoral Period and in Political Debates

12. The broad participation of the electorate in the meetings and demonstrations of their parties and candidates in the weeks prior to the elections should also be noted. There was freedom of expression. For the first time in Panama, there was a high-level political debate among the principal candidates for the presidency, under different auspices and in different forums.

People's Capacity for Discernment

13. Finally, it can be stated that the result of the elections demonstrates the Panamanian people's great capacity for discernment between the two strong contenders. The fact that the great mass of voters were polarized into two political blocs clearly indicates that the next government must be broad and participatory if it wishes to be a truly national government.

B. Negative Aspects

At the Domestic and International Levels

14. Certain aspects of the elections have caused great concern among broad sectors of the citizenry and great disillusionment, particularly among the new generations, which expected something different. There has been a serious step backward on the path to democratization and a deterioration of our country's image abroad.

We Speak as Pastors

15. As pastors, who as such have no partisan preference, and with the intention of serving everyone, we feel obliged to note some of those aspects, with the highest hope that that which should be corrected will be, and that we will learn from our experience and take heed for the future. Let us remember that the road to democracy is never-ending and that, in the best of cases, it is never achieved in one step.

Abuses in the Media

16. There have been abuses in the media: discrimination in access to them; in fact, some of the media were systematically closed to their political adversaries; and bias in news reporting, in some cases to the point of dishonesty, verbal violence, disrespectful personal remarks, and failure to observe the rules that the media themselves established.

We think that the directors of those media could take advantage of the experience gained in this campaign, asking themselves to what extent they contributed to "ensuring that the electoral competition is really a campaign of civicism that helps our people to mature politically." (Article 36)

Abuses in the Voting Itself

17. In not a few cases, the prevailing attitude was that power should be obtained "by whatever means," through the purchase of votes, the "punching of cedulas [identification cards]," the distribution of liquor, the improper use of government resources and personnel, and in some places, the obvious intervention of the National Defense Forces. The conduct of politics in this fashion pursues not the good of all but personal interests instead, and indicates that political power is seen as something that can be bought and that can, therefore, be used for personal gain.

Deficiencies in Electoral Registers

18. As far as the voting itself is concerned, we have already pointed out that many who were recorded on the census were discouraged to find that their names were not on the voter lists. This error affected all the parties, and should be corrected in the future. The right to vote is sacred.

Electoral Method According to the Code

19. A more serious problem was the computation of votes. As election day came to an end, many defects were noted in the tally sheets at the polling places and in the computation of the circuit tally counts. These problems seemed to be caused by the method dictated by the Electoral Code.

The Problem of the Challenged Polling Places

20. The greatest problem was the challenging of so many polling places. In the case of some of the challenges registered in the election of legislators, it seems to us that the evidence demands a serious investigation, to satisfy the public as to the electoral results. However, most of the challenges, particularly in the presidential voting, were for arbitrary and purely partisan reasons.

Effectiveness of Electoral Code Is Questioned

21. These events again place in question the effectiveness of an Electoral Code that does not permit resolution of discrepancies at the source, a fact that delayed the vote counting process and created a climate of doubt and discontent.

In this state of affairs, two different attitudes were noted among those who were responsible for the electoral process. Some demanded a public recount of all the challenged tally sheets before a final count was made. Others insisted that this would mean such a great delay that the tension and possibility of conflicts in the country would increase.

In this dilemma, the National Vote Counting Board, by a majority vote, declared that it was unable to continue its task. This created an irregular situation in which the Electoral Tribunal was obliged to take on the functions of the Board, for which, according to the tribunal president, it was not designed.

Consequences of These Events

22. It is obvious that these events have disillusioned all the people and have damaged the credibility of their electoral institutions, the essential requirement for which is that votes must be freely cast and meticulously counted.

III. Conclusion

23. In concluding these reflections that we wanted to share with you, permit us to make some final comments that we hope will serve as enlightenment and encouragement within the context of the problems that we have jointly experienced.

Violence Against Human Life Deserves Unanimous Repudiation

24. A. [as published] The day after the elections, Monday, 7 May, there was a violent conflict in the street in front of the Legislative Palace. The most serious aspect of the incident was the use of firearms, resulting in one person killed and a great number injured. This incident, graphically reported in the newspapers and on television, has deeply wounded the sensitivities of all Panamanians. Since there were so many photographs and so many eyewitnesses to the events, there is no possible explanation for the delay in identifying and punishing at least those who were primarily responsible. No one can doubt that this degree of disrespect for and violence against human life demands the unanimous repudiation of all of the people and exemplary punishment by the penal courts, to prevent brute force and fatal violence from becoming the methods of political decisionmaking here in Panama.

Electoral Tribunal Must Inform the People

25. B. [as published] In view of the persisting doubts, we exhort the members of the Electoral Tribunal to exhaust all necessary resources to offer the public the most objective and satisfactory information about everything related to the elections for president and legislators. Similarly, they must guarantee the same objectivity in the elections for mayors and representatives. Light and clarity are needed. The tribunal has this duty to the entire nation.

A Deeply Divided People

26. C. [as published] We are aware of the sad fact that the people are deeply divided when they should be united for the common good, over and above all political and ideological differences. No one will benefit if this continues: not the current rulers, not those who won or were defeated in the elections, not the National Defense Forces, not civic or occupational associations, not the Panamanian families themselves. It is painful that it should be the poor, who had the least influence in the current electoral processes, who will suffer the consequences of divisions and conflicts that prevent equitable progress in Panama.

Task of Promoting Unity

27. It is necessary for all of us to work to promote the unity of the Panamanian people. To this end, let the government do everything possible to achieve the welfare of all, especially the poorest and most neglected. Let the National Defense Forces, for their part, be "at the service of a constitutional order that favors and perfects the exercise of the rights and duties of every Panamanian." (pastoral letter, Article 11)

Let Us Pray to the Father of Mercy

28. Let us all learn from the defects and even from the errors committed by everyone in this electoral process. May the Lord allow us to advance on the path of a democratization that may be the sign that the love of God and of our neighbor may be converted into practice and into social institutions providing justice and peace.

Pardon and reconciliation are characteristic of Christians. Moreover, they are the dominant theme in this Holy Year of Redemption. We implore everyone to raise our sights and our hearts with faith, hope, and love, unto the Father of Mercy, asking Him to enlighten, encourage, and unite us on the path of peace.

Jose Maria Carrizo V., Bishop of Chitre and President of the Panamanian Episcopal Conference

Marcos G. McGrath, C.S.C., Archbishop of Panama and Vice President of the Panama Episcopal Conference

COSTA RICA

MONGE BEGINS TOUR OF 11 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Discusses Tour's Goals

PA260238 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpts] President Luis Alberto Monge today said good-bye to national journalists by holding a press conference in Pozos de Santa Ana. Monge said that a campaign to discredit Costa Rica in Europe and the United States has grown stronger.

[Begin Monge recording] The groups who have been accusing Costa Rica of being a springboard for the CIA have been bombarding the European press with their arguments. We must interpret this as a desire to create a negative climate for me and to force me to answer the same question from European journalists again and again: Whether Eden Pastora is in and operating from Costa Rica. They keep asking whether it is true that the CIA is pressuring me into militarizing the country and aligning with ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] in the Nicaraguan conflict. I can see very clearly where all of this will lead. I have received many European journalists in the past 3 weeks. All have asked that same question. I intend to insist on what I have told those who have come here. Costa Rica is an open country. I invite them to come and see whether everything that is being said is true or not. We have offered journalists every opportunity to visit, even to go to the border zone, where, it has been alleged, men are concentrated to attack Nicaragua. I believe that it will not be difficult for me to counter this campaign, which is now getting worse. Unfortunately, it has been echoed in the U.S. press itself. I will summarize for you the basic goals of my planned trip to Europe.

1. We need to explain Costa Rica's true stance on Central America's problems, as well as on international problems in general.

2. We have to counter the misinformation campaign against us, which is again attempting to portray us as a U.S. satellite. Instead of a country that is attacked on its borders, in its airspace, and on its territorial waters by the Nicaraguan Army, we are painted as a country that lends itself to attacks on Nicaragua. This is the twist that some in Europe have managed to give our situation.

The European democracies have not yet realized that Costa Rica also needs solidarity. These democracies believe that we can fend for ourselves, that we don't require solidarity. I have said that I will show the European democracies that we do need statements of support, as frequently as possible, from democratic political leaders in Western Europe. [end recording]

Gives Predeparture Interview

PA272206 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 27 May 84

[Interview with President Luis Alberto Monge before his departure for Europe at the Juan Santamaria International Airport on 27 May by an unidentified reporter -- live]

[Excerpts] [Monge] Once again, I wish to express my gratitude to the West European governments that have invited me, as the president of Costa Rica, to visit their countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank their representatives in our country who are here as witnesses to the ceremony in which I will delegate my presidential duties to the first vice president of the Republic.

I am very optimistic about the objectives of this mission, which will be a difficult one, inasmuch as we have a very tight schedule. As we suspect, there are forces that are trying to boycott the mission that I will carry out on behalf of Costa Rica as of today. I have confirmed that a delegation of Costa Rican citizens has gone ahead of us with what they describe as a book, which I examined carefully yesterday. My conclusion is that it is nothing but propaganda against Costa Rica, charging that we are a Washington satellite and that our country is a springboard for CIA attacks on Nicaragua. In my opinion, these citizens have embarked on an ungrateful and disloyal mission to work against Costa Rica -- not against Luis Alberto Monge, but against Costa Rica.

[Reporter] I had an opportunity to talk with foreign journalists yesterday, and I realized then that the truth about Costa Rica and Central America has been distorted. What will the specific message that Costa Rica will take to the European nations be?

[Monge] Well, as I have pointed out before, our first objective will be to explain Costa Rica's true and proper position on international issues, particularly as regards the conflict affecting our sister Central American countries. Our second objective will be to explain the real situation in our country correctly and objectively, which is not as it has been presented through the misinformation campaign that is seeking to discredit our country. There have been efforts to disseminate a mutilated and distorted image of our country among the West European democracies. Our obligation, then, is to give them a true picture of Costa Rica. We are not Washington's satellite, as some have said; we are not a springboard for warlike actions by the CIA; and we are not a country in which human rights are held in disrespect, which is another false accusation against us. We are a true democracy, and we sympathize with the struggles of peoples who are trying to rid themselves of economic and political oppression. However, this is where the problem lies. Those who are promoting this campaign don't accept our position. Yet we do sympathize with the peoples who are struggling for economic and political liberation, and who are fighting the despotism that oppresses them, regardless of the ideology of the oppressors. We reject all despots, whether rightist or leftist.

Our other objective is to elicit frank, clear-cut, definite, and categorical solidarity from the European democracies with Costa Rica's democracy and with the efforts that are being undertaken, more by the Costa Rican people than by the government itself, to maintain peace and to defend their sovereignty and their democratic institutional system.

Another objective is to deepen and expand, as far as possible, the European democracies' technical, economic, and financial cooperation with Costa Rica. Not wishing to underrate any Central American country, we still feel that Costa Rica deserves as much cooperation from the West European democracies as any other Central American country, or perhaps more, given its unalterable adherence to the values and concepts of Western democracy. These are the fundamental objectives of my tour.

Leaves for Spain 27 May

PA271600 Paris AFP in Spanish 1545 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] San Jose, 27 May (AFP) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge today left for Spain on the start of the longest European tour undertaken by a Cosat Rican president in many years. In the next few days, President Monge will visit 11 European countries, in what his government has called "a mission of truth" to offset the "misinformation campaign" that has been launched against Costa Rica on that continent.

MONGE DISCUSSES DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA

PA242233 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has said that some people believe that Costa Rica is a U.S. satellite, but that this is not true. Monge, who will be visiting Spain 28-30 May, told several Spanish reporters that all the Latin American peoples have tried to foster democracy in their countries, but that oligarchic and military structures have blocked their efforts in the majority (?of cases). Monge stressed that Costa Rica can win the battle for demccracy in Central America by demonstrating that democracy can [word indistinct] poverty and social injustice.

Monge noted that the Contadora Group countries are trying to exclude Central America from the East-West confrontation.

DELEGATION TO DUARTE INAUGURATION APPOINTED

PA271709 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] In one of the most eloquent examples of democracy by a Central American state, incumbent Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana will deliver the presidency to President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte. The ceremony will take place at the Salvadoran Olympic Center on 1 June. The Costa Rican Government has already appointed the members of the delegation that will represent our country, which will be headed by Second Vice President Armando Arauz Aquilar. The other members of the delegation will be Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Urbina, Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano, Deputy Presidency Minister Manuel Carvallo, and Costa Rican Ambassador to El Salvador Oscar Castro Vega.

ARDE'S ROBELO CONCERNED OVER LACK OF SUPPORT

PA251609 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Alfonso Robelo [member of the directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE] has told Costa Rican Vice President Alberto Fait of his concern over the lack of support he is receiving. In a visit to the first vice president this morning, the ARDE leader expressed his discouragement over the lack of support shown for the struggle in which he is engaged. He also said that he continues to be respectful of the political acceptance that has been extended to him by President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez. Robelo said that he continues to act with respect for the asylum that has been granted him. He said that the Costa Rican Government can be certain that he has no weapons or armed men in the country. Robelo added that his fighting from Costa Rica is being accomplished solely with ideals and criticism.

EL SALVADOR

ARMY DENIES LARGE OPERATION PLANNED IN MORAZAN

PA282042 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2001 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 28 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Army officially denied today that it is preparing a vast military plan to attack the guerrillas in the northern part of the eastern Department of Morazan. An insurgent radio station today charged that an operation would begin in the next few days in Morazan, where the rebels have one of their largest strongholds, and that 13,300 Salvadoran soldiers, 3,000 Hondurans, and 1,000 U.S. troops would participate. However, an Army spokesman has told ACAN-EFE that these reports are false and that such a deployment of troops is not planned.

Venceremos Alleges U.S. Plan

PA280447 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 28 May 84

[Excerpts] Attention, your attention, Salvadoran people; attention, local and foreign press: We now have in hand an intelligence report on the "Grenadier I" maneuvers and the U.S. plans for intervention. The following is an important report obtained by our intelligence service on the interventionist "Grenadier I" military maneuvers that are currently under way in Honduran territory, with the participation of U.S., Honduran, and Salvadoran troops. The report reads as follows:

The U.S. Government, through the Pentagon, acting in conjunction with the Salvadoran and Honduran general staffs, has planned a large-scale military operation in El Salvador in an attempt to obtain an important military victory that will accompany and strengthen Duarte's political and demagogic maneuver. Duarte is to be sworn in on Thursday, 1 June. The primary target of this large-scale military operation will be Morazan Department, but from the very outset it will also include the northern areas of La Union and San Miguel Departments. This is because all of these areas are under heavy revolutionary control.

The operation, which is unprecedented, given the number of troops who will participate, will be carried out jointly by Salvadoran, Honduran and U.S. troops. In all, 17,300 soldiers will be involved. They will be distributed as follows: 10,300 Salvadoran soldiers, 3,000 Honduran soldiers, and 1,000 U.S. soldiers. [all figures as heard] The general idea of this operation, drafted by the military advisers, is to stage a large-scale attack on Morazan Department while the Honduran, U.S., and Salvadoran troops take up positions along our country's border in an attempt to pressure us and to attack the revolutionary army's rearguard.

The Atonal Battalion has been transferred to Honduran territory so that it may participate in this operation. Its initial role will be to remain stationed on the border, together with the Hondurans and U.S. troops, and to advance, once the operation has begun, into Salvadoran territory through the northern part of Morazan. Included in the U.S.-drafted plans is the possibility that troops will be air transported into Morazan as a fundamental part of the operation.

Along with this huge display of joint forces, the U.S. advisers have planned for several special battalions to carry out operations in the northern areas of La Union and San Miguel Departments, with the alleged objective of surrounding our revolutionary forces.

According to the North American military men, the operations will begin this very week and will last until the second week of June, when they would coincide with the final and culminating phase of the "Grenadier I" maneuvers. In addition, Colonel Domingo Monterrosa plans to carry out military operations in the areas of Guatajiagua, Moncagua, and Rio Seco, because he is seriously worried that our forces will raid important roads and San Miguel itself, attacking strategic targets, as they did in Morazan and on other occasions.

The operation to be carried out against Morazan Department and northern La Union and San Miguel Departments is one more attempt by the North Americans and the Salvadoran high command to counteract the growing revolutionary power in the country's east and particularly in Morazan. The consolidation of revolutionary power all along the strip north of the eastern Departments of La Union, San Miguel, and all of Morazan, has meant, for the FMLN, an important and unprecedented growth of its military forces and political systems. This has entailed a serious threat to the dictatorship's Army and is a serious concern for the high command, which can see how it is losing control of the entire eastern region of El Salvador. Restoring the dictatorship's control over Morazan Department has been an old dream that the high military command has never been able to fulfill.

We repeat: The operation [words indistinct] against Morazan Department, involving the unprecedented participation of 13,000 Salvadoran, 3,000 Honduran, and 1,000 North American soldiers, results form the serious concern of the high command and North American advisers over the latest developments, in which the FMLN prevented the two rounds of elections from being held in 90 percent of the towns in the east and staged a raid on the most important city, San Miguel, on 6 May [date of the election] itself. The FMLN forces will fight, wear down, and defeat this new enemy operation. Our people and the entire world will witness the failure of these plans, on which the high command and the North American interventionists are pinning their last hopes.

Rebel Units on 'Special Alert'

PA280455 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Attention! Attention! All of the military units in the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade throughout Morazan Department, pay attention: All of our military defense groups, all political organizations and service groups must remain on general alert, to face the new large-scale operation that is being planned by the enemy. All of our military units on the border with Honduras and all of our observation posts must remain on special alert, to detect and face the U.S., Honduran, and Salvadoran troops who are about to take up positions and to cross our border. A special alert and special instructions have been issued to all forces and groups so that they may discover and intercept the special long-range reconnaissance units that may infiltrate our territory.

REBEL RADIOS AIR FMLN, FDR PROPOSALS ON DIALOGUE

FMLN General Command Message

PA260149 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 May 84

["Message" issued by the FMLN General Command in El Salvador on 25 May]

[Text] A negotiated political solution is the prevailing need in El Salvador. The FMLN General Command, reflecting the efforts of all national democratic forces, states:

That the aggressive U.S. sectors that unleashed the war in our country have failed in their attempts to deny the Salvadoran people's national democratic rights and are now trying to escalate their interventionist war to more open and expanded levels, threatening to drag all of Central America into a conflict of unforeseeable consequences. The FMLN-FDR have repeatedly expressed and pursued, in a practical and constructive way, our goal of seeking a path to a genuine, just, and lasting political solution. However, all of our efforts to engage in dialogue in the last 4 years have crashed up against the Ronald Reagan administration's fundamentally militaristic and inflexible policy. Mr Reagan has responded to our people with the language of war. He has responded to our cries for peace with gunfire. He has sent rifles, aircraft and U.S.-made bombs in response to our requests for understanding. Only rarely have we seen a willingness for dialogue, and on those few occasions it proved to be a game intended to preserve appearances. Our past governments have always accepted this attitude and their conduct has always reflected the Reagan government's policy.

Duarte's Second Chance

Based on a decision made in Washington and a very well organized plan drafted there, Mr Duarte was promoted as the favorite candidate for the presidency. The CIA provided $1 million to Duarte's political campaign. It was Ambassador Pickering who gave the early results of the first round of elections. Following the second round of elections, President Reagan did not wait for the official count before congratulating Duarte. People linked to the White House view Jose Napoleon Duarte as the best, quote, lawyer, end quote, for the Reagan administration's warmongering policy and the best tool for their plans of aggression.

The election was full of problems and trickery. Hence, Mr Duarte will be the first head of state who will not be president of all of El Salvador, because he was not elected by all of the people and will not have control over all of the country's territory. Partial elections can only produce a partial government, for it will be a government of only two-thirds of the country. Indeed, he will be president in name only over all of the areas that are not controlled by the FMLN, because the real power lies with the oligarchs, the Armed Forces, and the United States. On the basis of these facts, we can predict the following:

A. The new government will become enmeshed in a game, trying to organize an "independent" administration while putting up with the Reagan administration's foreign intervention.

B. The new government will also boast of having achieved reforms, though it will reform nothing of importance.

Well, Mr Duarte still has only two clear options, and he will be compelled to choose one of them:

1. He will end up by losing all of his pride, because of his current policy and his increasing submission to the Pentagon's plans, offering himself as a doormat for the occupation forces; or

2. He will accept a national offer for a realistic negotiated solution.

The FMLN-FDR General Command, despite the government's prospects under Duarte's leadership and his negative attitude toward our efforts to promote a political solution, do not reject the possibility that Mr Duarte may one day decide to choose a democratic national solution. This will be achieved through the realistic dialogue, without conditions, that we have proposed.

The proposal presented by our friends is intended as a dynamic and flexible contribution to the construction of an alternate solution. However, the FMLN here declares that it is completely willing to welcome and seriously study any eventual counterproposal from Mr Duarte's government. We also champion the people's just demands, which make up our platform for a broadbased provisional government. We believe that the kind of favorable atmosphere that is necessary for a realistic dialogue and negotiations for peace should demonstrate compliance with our most important demands, contained in the people's national document, and including:

A. No more U.S. participation in our war.

B. No more bombings of civilians.

C. No more political prisoners, deaths, or missing persons.

A Call to the People

The FMLN General Command reasserts that we are advancing in and continuing our struggle, and it issues the following call to the workers, public employees, professionals, and all social sectors in our country, including our troops, militias, and guerrilla groups:

A. Intensify your preparations to counter the intervention and to achieve the people's victory.

B. Increase your struggle to achieve our people's just demands.

C. Actively support all democratic, revolutionary, and patriotic efforts to initiate a dialogue and to achieve a national negotiated solution.

Duarte's government must define its position on the efforts being made by the democratic and revolutionary forces of El Salvador and by other democratic forces in the world to achieve realistic solutions.

For a political solution, to achieve peace, independence, and democracy! No to intervention! Revolution or death, we shall win!

[Signed] The FMLN-FDR General Command: Commander Roberto Roca, Commander Shafick Jorge Handal, Commander Ferman Cienfuegos, Commander Leonel Gonzalez, Commander Joaquin Villalobos

[Dated] El Salvador, 25 May 1984

[The clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 1830 GMT on 27 May carried a recorded version of the message issued by the FMLN General Command on 25 May read by Leonel Gonzalez, first secretary of the People's Liberation Front, FPL, Central Committee and commander of the FPL armed forces. The Radio Farabundo Marti version has been compared with the Radio Venceremos announcer-read version and found to be identical.]

FDR Issues Communique

PA272025 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 27 May 84

[Communique issued by the FDR Executive Committee -- date and place not given]

[Text] The FDR publicly outlines its position on the Salvadoran conflict and the path to its political solution at this time when we are approaching a change of the Salvadoran Government.

1. Jose Napoleon Duarte will be sworn in as president of the executive branch on 1 June as a result of elections that were not held nationwide, but were instead limited to the two-thirds of the national territory that has not yet been brought under the control of the revolutionary forces. His election was the result of a shady, antidemocratic process carried out in an exclusionary and repressive framework in which there was evidence of the Reagan administration's clear political determination to impose him on El Salvador because it considers him to be the best option for its warmongering policy and Reagan's plans for reelection.

2. The primary cause of the war, that is, the repressive and exclusionary political and economic structure that harms the popular masses, still exists in the country. It is highly unlikely that Mr Duarte will be able to do more than play a game of appearances, since the real power and therefore the basic decisionmaking power, remains in the hands of the U.S. Government, the oligarchy, and the Salvadoran Armed Forces. These basic elements of power are specifically the ones that are preventing an effective reorganization of the unjust economic and political structures that have led our people to demand their rights through the path of arms.

3. Mr Duarte, in terms that are sill ambiguous, has said that he favors dialogue and that he is opposed to foreign intervention in our fatherland. These comments have generated expectation and skepticism that he will have to dispel by specific actions and deeds. In this regard, it is necessary to take into account that more than 4 years of conflict and war have demonstrated the futility of solutions that exclude our fronts, and the growing U.S. political and military intervention which is an ominous reality that prolongs our people's sufferings and increases the price they must pay, while threatening to spread the conflict throughout the region. There is no longer any room for ambiguities. The government must make up its mind in practice. It will either promote greater intervention and a U.S. invasion or seek a political negotiated solution.

4. Since 1981 the FDR, acting joinly with the FMLN, has formally and repeatedly expressed its willingness to hold a true dialogue with the Salvadoran Government, seeking a political negotiated solution that can achieve peace, independence and democracy. Our proposals have always been rejected, because when Duarte was president of the government junta, he evaded dialogue, realizing that he did not have enough decisionmaking power to carry it out. This year, gathering together our people's most heartfelt demands, we expressed them in our proposal for a broadbased provisional government. This proposal was also rejected.

5. The FDR feels that dialogue failed in the past because of a need for an interlocutor who would have the real power and willingness to make decisions. Duarte is now presenting himself as a valid interlocutor. Now he will have to demonstrate that his power [investidura] is real and not just a formality. He is presenting himself as a politician without weapons, saying that he is not prepared to negotiate with weapons on the table, at the same time that he has requested more weapons from the U.S. Government, thus asserting his position as general commander of the Armed Forces.

The FDR does not wish, at this time, to take a position [10-second break in transmission] open the door to the solution to the conflict. For this reason, it reiterates its willingness to begin, without previous conditions and with an open agenda, an open dialogue with the new president of the executive branch to seek a political solution providing peace, independence, and democracy.

With unity to victory!

[Signed] FDR Executive Committee

ARCHBISHOP WELCOMES REBEL PROPOSAL ON DIALOGUE

PA262057 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, said this morning that he is optimistic after learning today that the FMLN guerrillas and the FDR political sector have proposed a broad dialogue to Jose Napoleon Duarte's new administration, without prerequisites and with an open agenda. According to the high-ranking church spokesman, the church has always favored dialogue and is willing to mediate, should the two sides request it. As for the substance of the dialogue, Msgr Rivera y Damas said: We cannot go into that, for that must be agreed on by the parties. However, we welcome all proposals for dialogue and will try to support them, he concluded.

DUARTE, FDR SAID SEEKING MEDIATION FROM MONGE

PA262332 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2024 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] San Jose, 26 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte and the Executive Committee of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, have asked Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge to mediate in the Salvadoran conflict. This was reported in San Jose by Guillermo Ungo, Ruben Zamora, and Eduardo Calles, the top representatives of the armed opposition in El Salvador.

Ungo, Calles, and Zamora have said that, as far as they are concerned, "Duarte is a legitimate spokesman," although the opposition does not recognize the 6 May elections as genuine, arguing that a significant sector of the population did not participate. The FDR leaders, who also said that they are speaking on behalf of the FMLN, held talks with President Monge earlier to explain the guerrillas' position toward Duarte's government.

According to Ungo, Monge told them that during Duarte's recent visit to Costa Rica the Salvadoran president-elect expressed his willingness to engage in dialogue with the FDR. Duarte, who visited San Jose on 19 May, told national and foreign journalists at the time that he was "not willing to accept solutions that are imposed with rifles on the table." Duarte also said: "Weapons don't grant the right to hold power; if the guerrillas want dialogue, let them explain how they would solve our problems, because this is what Salvadorans are interested in."

In addition, the opposition members expresses their interest in initiating a dialogue "with no strings attached, with no prerequisites, and with an open agenda," although they expressed their doubts about Duarte's future direction at the same time. They also admitted that, so far, they have not contacted Duarte directly.

As for the possibility that the opposition would be willing to declare a truce in the struggle, Ungo answered: "In any honeymoon there must always be mutual gestures and actions." Ungo also said that in the past, the FMLN, of which the FDR is a part, has declared truces on several occasions, but the Salvadoran Army did not honor them. The FDR leaders repeatedly stressed their "open position" and said that they did not want "to predict" the outcome of eventual negotiations with Duarte until he defines his own position. According to Zamora, it is up to Duarte to decide "whether he will promote war, which would unavoidably result in a direct U.S. invasion, or take the path of political negotiation."

CASTILLO TO BE INTERIOR MINISTER; VIDES TO STAY

PA262009 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1848 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 26 May (DPA) -- Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, vice president-elect of El Salvador, has been designated interior minister in the cabinet of Jose Napoleon Duarte, who will be sworn in as president on 1 June, according to a report published in a local newspaper today. The report notes that the information was provided by an official Christian Democratic Party [PDC] source. It has also been confirmed that General Eugenio Vides Casanova will remain as defense minister.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS CLASHES AROUND SAN SALVADOR

PA260434 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] A fierce clash between the puppet troops and civil defense members and an urban guerrilla command took place on Thursday morning in Mejicanos, on the outskirts of San Salvador. Area residents who were interviewed by local radio stations have said that seven members of the civil defense were killed and two soldiers were wounded in the clash. Meanwhile, another shootout took place on Thursday in the Flor Blanca neighborhood of San Salvador, when a different guerrilla command attacked an Army patrol on the neighborhood's streets.

GUATEMALA

ANDRADE ANNOUNCES PLANNED U.S. MILITARY AID

PA290351 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran said today on his return from Washington, where he met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and other officials, that the United States will give Guatemala $10 million in military aid. Andrade said that the kind of assistance will be agreed on later, noting that Guatemala has become more interested in economic aid because it is bent on overcoming the crisis currently affecting the region. He added that during his visit to Washington he invited observers from the North American House of Representatives, the Senate, and the State Department to attend the 1 July elections for a constituent assembly. Andrade expressed optimism over the future of Guatemalan-U.S. relations, which have been strained over the last few years, and said that a new North American ambassador to Guatemala, whose name has not been released, has already been appointed to replace Frederick Chapin, who was withdrawn early this year. Andrade added that the United States has viewed Guatemala's policy of neutrality on Central America's problems with interest. Guatemalan-U.S. relations were badly strained during President Romeo Lucas Garcia's administration, though North American military assistance was actually suspended a few years before. The main disagreement involved the observance of human rights in Guatemala.

PAZ BARNICA VISITS TO DISCUSS CONTADORA

PA290315 Paris AFP in Spanish 0142 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 May (AFP) -- Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica arrived in Guatemala today on an official 2-day visit, during which he will meet with Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores and with his Guatemalan counterpart, Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran.

The Honduran foreign secretary was greeted at the Air Force base by Andrade Diaz-Duran, who accompanied him to the National Palace, where he will begin his official meetings. It has been learned unofficially that the basic topic that he will discuss with his colleague will be the two governments' position within the so-called Contadora Group, which is engaged in mediating the Central American conflict.

The government issued a communique tonight noting that Mejia's talks with the Honduran foreign secretary serve to demonstrate "the cordial relations" that exist between the two countries. The itinerary for Paz Barnica's visit to the Guatemalan capital will be "very tight," because he plans to hold several meetings at different levels, Foreign Ministry sources have explained. The Honduran official's visit will conclude at 1500 (2100 GMT) tomorrow, when he will return to Tegucigalpa.

HONDURAS

MILITARY SEEKS CHANGES IN AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

PA281435 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 May 84

[Report from Radio San Pedro in San Pedro Sula by an unidentified reporter on 28 May -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The Honduran Armed Forces are studying possible changes in the military agreement with the United States. The new Honduran attitude stems from the fact that Washington is threatening to break the military equilibrium between Honduran and Salvadoran forces. It was learned in Washington today that General Walter Lopez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, has made several proposals to solve the problem. The solutions call for finding an equilibrium between the number of Honduran and Salvadoran officers and soldiers trained in Puerto Castilla. Honduras would also ask the United States to convince El Salvador to settle old territorial disputes with Honduras. As for military training, it would be expanded to include troops from other countries in the region.

Gen Walter Lopez Reyes has said that there is an imbalance in the number of Honduran and Salvadoran soldiers trained at the Puerto Castilla base in northern Honduras. According to Lopez Reyes, the ratio is 70 Salvadoran soldiers to 30 Honduran soldiers. According to statistics available in Washington, 1,500 Salvadoran soldiers received antiguerrilla training in Puerto Castilla last year, while only 700 Hondurans received similar training. According to a front-page report carried by THE WASHINGTON POST today, this situation worries Honduran officers and politicians.

Gen Walter Lopez, one of the heroes of the 1969 war with El Salvador, believes that Washington should expand the installations at the base at a cost of $3.5 million. In his opinion, this would make possible the training of Salvadoran and Honduran soldiers on an equal basis. In addition, according to Gen Lopez -- who replaced General Alvarez Martinez as commander of the Armed Forces -- with this expansion, Guatemalan and Panamanian soldiers could also be trained in Puerto Castilla. Based on this new agreement with the United States, military instructors from Venezuela, Guatemala, and Brazil would also train Central American soldiers.

Gen Walter Lopez Reyes has been the first one to publicly express the Hondurans' nationalistic feelings and their concern over Washington's growing militarization of El Salvador.

PAZ BARNICA ON NICARAGUA, 'GRENADIER' MANEUVERS

PA260016 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1908 GMT 24 May 84

[Excerpts] We have a report on the outcome of the first meeting held by the Security Council following the reorganization of the Armed Forces' higher echelons. The meeting took place at the presidential palace. Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica said afterward that Honduras' foreign policy was reviewed with an eye to renewal, adding that the council also addressed the issues of national security and econmic and social development, with a special interest in promoting peace. The foreign minister also said that President Suazo has the full support of the Armed Forces, in terms of any measures that will help to solve Honduras' problems. Danilo Antunez and Gustavo Rodlfo Rubi Boquin report from the presidential palace:

[Begin recording] [Rubi] Mr Minister: Did you discuss whether the Armed Forces will support the government's implementation of the economic measures that will take effect in the next few days? And did you discuss the upcoming U.S.-Honduran maneuvers?

[Paz Barnica] The Honduran Government and the president have the Armed Forces' complete support for all measures that may help to solve Honduras' various problems. As for foreign policy, we paid special attention to the Contadora Group's efforts to secure peace. We once again confirmed the Honduran Government's support for the Contadora Group's efforts, stressing the fact that Honduras favors and will emphasize an overall and regional solution to the Central American crisis. Honduras will also strengthen its democratic process and its dignity by adopting measures that do not weaken its position in the international community.

[Rubi] Did you discuss Honduran-Nicaraguan relations following the downing of a Honduran helicopter in Nicaraguan airspace?

[Paz Barnica] Yes, we discussed this topic objectively and clearly, within the context of Honduras' peace policy, which will be implemented in a pragmatic way. Other issues of interest to Honduras' foreign policy, particularly in regard to Central America, were discussed. I must decline to comment further on these for obvious reasons.

[Rubi] Reports from several Olancho villages indicate that contra groups have been harassing local residents. Was this discussed at the meeting?

[Paz Barnica] Yes, it was. Honduras, in conjunction with the Honduran Armed Forces, will reinforce a policy that will guarantee full respect for the law in such matters. However, I must refrain from expanding on this matter, as well.

[Rubi] Will the second phase of the "Grenadier I" military maneuvers heighten tension in Central America?

[Paz Barnica] We have spoken about this before, including during my recent appearance before the national congress. Thus, I don't think there is anything to add. I said that the maneuvers are temporary and that the U.S. presence and cooperation specified in bilateral agreements will never permit the establishment of a permanent base on Honduran territory.

[Rubi] However, this time the maneuvers will take place a mere 20 km from the Nicaraguan border, and our relations have reached a difficult stage.

[Paz Barnica] As I have said before, a country's independence requires special conditions, such as sole responsibility for internal affairs and autonomy. Every sovereign state may undertake any action that pertains to its interests and that falls within its responsibilities, as long as it doesn't violate another state's borders. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

BORDER COMMISSION WITH COSTA RICA INSTALLED

D'Escoto on Value of Commission

PA261803 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1655 GMT 26 May 84

[Live report by Freddy Lopez from Penas Blancas]

[Text] Before the Nicaraguan commission goes to receive the commission that is coming from the Costa Rican side, which includes Laura Ochao and Ricardo Valero, from Colombia and Mexico, respectively, Father Miguel D'Escoto in an interview with this radio station informs the people of Nicaragua about how he views the installation of this commission here in Penas Blancas.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How do you view the installation of this commission, Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman?

[D'Escoto] We have already said that this is a very significant step that took place within the Contadora negotiation process. Although it cannot be said that the installation of the commission along represents a solution to all the problems, it is an important step that contributes to identifying the causes of the tension and to adopting to eradicate these causes. We have said on many occasions that this tension between the Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua results from a real situation that was provoked by the abusive way in which the CIA uses Costa Rican territory as a base for attacking Nicaragua. We realize that this has taken place behind the back and against the desire for neutrality of President Luis Alberto Monge. We believe this is very important.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct] What will Nicaragua do to avoid conflicts?

[D'Escoto] Once the commission is installed, both sides will make statements in this regard. [end recording]

D'Escoto Speaks at Ceremony

PA261923 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1742 GMT 26 May 84

[Speech by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto in Penas Blancas at a ceremony to install the "Supervision and Prevention Commission" on the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border -- live, broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...of Venezuela German Nava, Honorable Deputy Ministers of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Messrs Delegates: In the first place, I wish to express the immense satisfaction of the Nicaraguan Government and people, as well as my own satisfaction, at receiving in our homeland his excellency Dr Carlos Jose Gutierrez, foreign minister of the fraternal Republic of Costa Rica, his entire distinguished delegation, the honorable deputy ministers of the Contadora Group countries, and the officials recently appointed to the commission.

The historic installation of the commission for supervision and prevention clearly demonstrates the firm desire for peace that motivates the governments of the fraternal peoples of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. If the capacity for pressure of those who, in an attempt to mock the historic and fraternal ties linking our two countries, seek to divide and confront us is great, then the Central American consciences and feelings of our respective governments is even greater. Latin American solidarity has also been strong. This has been expressed in the noble and generous efforts made by Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, the countries that make up the Contadora Group, without whose participation it would have been impossible to take this important step on behalf of regional peace.

As we have said on numerous occasions, today we reiterate in the most categorical terms our willingness to preserve and expand the historical fraternal ties with the Costa Rican Government and people within the framework of the strictest respect for the fundamental principles of international law. The maintenance of harmonious relations among states depends on compliance with these principles, especially those that establish the right to the self-determination of the peoples, nonintervention in the domestic affairs of states, and the nonuse of threats or force, all of this in accordance with the purest ideals of Morazan [reference to Francisco Morazan, early Central American soldier and statesman and president of El Salvador and Costa Rica].

On numerous occasions we have also reiterated our desire to strengthen peace and friendship throughout Central America. For this reason, the agreements we have reached fill us with profound and sincere hope. It is doubtless that the strengthening of relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, the strengthening of mutual understanding and trust, will benefit regional peace and will strengthen the efforts promoted by the Contadora Group for the same purpose. We do not hesitate to describe the agreements we have reached as exemplary because we believe they are also relevant in the case of other situations, which even more seriously threaten the peace the Central American peoples rightfully demand and need.

We feel that these agreements would not have been possible without a broad and patriotic stand on the part of the Costa Rican Government. This reaffirms its neutrality policy. Nicaragua, which from the beginning endorsed the proclamation of neutrality made by his excellency President Luis Alberto Monge, feels that these agreements ratify that proclamation in the face of those who want to see us engage in a fratricidal struggle against our peoples' desire to live in peace and to peacefully develop their relations.

The establishment of the Supervision and Prevention Commission will enable us to initiate various efforts designed in part to prevent and dispel situations that might separate us. In addition, it will serve as a means for constant communication that will permit us to achieve higher and better levels of understanding and cooperation.

The installation of this commission at such a difficult time for world peace also brings a ray of hope to the international community, especially the smaller countries, as it shows that it is indeed possible to resolve situations by peaceful means, and to withstand the pretensions of those who, showing little concern for the lives and independence of our peoples, insist on using them to promote their own imperial interests.

Today we are widening the path to peace and confirming the effectiveness of the Contadora Group's efforts. For this very reason, I wish to end this brief speech by reiterating the confidence of the Nicaraguan Government and people in the efforts made by the Contadora Group in the historic ties that unite Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and by expressing the hope that these ties will be strengthened and that peace will triumph in Central America. Thank you very much. [applause]

Gutierrez Addresses Gathering

PA262314 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1743 GMT 26 May 84

[Speech by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez in Penas Blancas at a ceremony to install the "Supervision and Prevention Commission" on the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border -- live]

[Text] Mr Minister of Foreign Relations of Nicaragua; Messrs Deputy Foreign Ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela; Messrs Deputy Foreign Ministers of Nicaragua and Costa Rica; Messrs Ambassadors and Charges d'Affaires, ladies and gentlemen:

I wish to declare, on behalf of the Costa Rican Government, the satisfaction we feel at the installation of this commission, which was created during the meeting held in Panama City with the members of the Contadora Group.

I also wish to point out the responsibility that we have imposed on the members of this newly created commission, the delicate task that they have assumed in terms of the relations between our two countries. One might say that it would have been best for there not to have been the need to create this commission, while the second best possibility is that it will prove to be unnecessary, and that its actions will be limited to the mere protocol of its installation and occasional consultations.

However, if it becomes necessary for the commission to act, it is important to remember that we want it to do its job well and to end any border incidents and keep the peace. The only thing required for the achievement of peace is mutual respect between our two countries, respect both for our borders and for each country's sovereignty.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to make a special comment about the Contadora Group. It has the rare virtue of having won unanimous, and I might add, enthusiastic, approval from all of the world's nations at a time when the world is divided by conflicts and ideologies. As far as we know, there is no country, party, or ideological and political system that has not approved of the creation of the forum for mediation and arbitration known as the Contadora Group. It has been accepted as the best means of maintaining peace in Central America and of achieving the social, institutional, and economic development that the area's countries need.

We are privileged today to witness the progressive development of the idea that led to the creation of the Contadora Group. Today, here on the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border, the four countries that have heretofore acted as mediators have taken on a new role: They have implemented a means of peacefully resolving international controversies through investigation and compromise. I am quite certain that the new role that was assumed today by these states will serve to resolve the conflicts that had brought Costa Rica and Nicaragua to the brink of a break in relations, which the two countries have managed to avoid to date.

Hence, I wish to declare my most fervent hope that the difficult task undertaken today by Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela proves successful. Certainly, these four countries, along with the five Central American countries, are becoming aware that we are a natural geopolitical region, united by common interests. Therefore, the fate of any one nation in the area must have an impact on the other nations. The region represents middle America or, if you prefer, the center of the American region; it is, thus, larger than the Central American region alone.

We, the Costa Ricans, hope that we may live in peace; as a result, we have pledged absolute respect for the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states and respect for their way of life.

As long as another state does not try to impose its own ideology or system on others, we feel that we will be able to peacefully coexist with it. Thus, we support the self-determination of peoples without foreign intervention.

Great nations have exemplified the ability to maintain frank friendship and cooperation despite different, and sometimes antagonistic, political, social, and economic systems. We see no reason why this model of peaceful coexistence cannot serve us in our efforts to find peace in the region. Democracy is a system of government for the people and by the people, as Abraham Lincoln said, and Costa Rica has been a democratic nation since its independence. Our world today cannot provide a better solution; democracy is the only solution.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us all express our most fervent desire for the success of the commission that has been installed today, at this point in Central America. The fate of everyone is at stake here. Thank you. [applause]

Venezuelan Hails Commission

PA281550 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Venezuela is prepared to ask the Honduran Government about the possibility of Hunduras reaching an agreement with the Nicaraguan Government to reestablish peace in Central America. This announcement was made by Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister German Nava during an interview with Radio Sandino.

Regarding the Supervision and Prevention Commission, Nava said that it is a result of the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan will to resolve all their bilateral problems peacefully.

[Begin recording] [Nava] This [installation of the commission] is an event of extraordinary importance, not only because the commission is a tool that can help maintain peaceful relations between the two countries, but also because it represents the political desire of Costa Rica and Nicaragua to resolve all problems peacefully, to prevent the recurrence of incidents, and to favorably contribute to maintaining most cordial relations between the two countries, which is essential in the region.

[Unidentified reporter] On a past occasion, the foreign minister of Venezuela spoke about the possibility of talks between Nicaragua and Honduras to see if it is possible to form a commission similar to this one. Is there anything new in this regard? Has any work been done in this direction?

[Nava] The foreign minister has commented that this is a wonderful idea worth exploring. The Contadora Group, to which Venezuela belongs, is willing. We have the best disposition toward this and the best desire to help as much as we can to reestablish peace and calm in the region. This is something that both Nicaragua and Honduras have to consider. The Contadora forum, I am sure, will always be very receptive to discussing this matter.

[Reporter] Could we say that the installation of this commission has been one of the most important achievements of Contadora since it initiated its work for peace in Central America?

[Nava] I believe that it does mark the beginning of a phase of more practical and effective achievements in maintaining world peace. [end recording]

ORTEGA: CONTRAS TO ATTACK COSTA RICA AS 'PRETEXT'

PA271801 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 84

["Face the People" program, with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado; and other government and FSLN officials, at La Libertad, in Chontales Department; broadcast in progress -- live]

[Excerpts] [Ortega]...This is a tremendous struggle, and the United States -- through the CIA, which directs the mercenaries and the counterrevolutionaries that come from Honduran and Costa Rican territory -- has launched these groups to carry out criminal activities to destroy everything that the revolution builds: schools [words indistinct] in the Departments of Matagalpa and Jinotega, and here, in the areas of Rio San Juan [words indistinct] the activities of the counterrevolutionaries.

The U.S. Government is determined to destroy this revolution. They believe they can destroy this revolution. The advisers of President Reagan, the Pentagon, and the CIA have been working on plans to provoke a massive intervention of U.S. troops in Nicaragua We are already enduring an intervention. We already have a war. We are fighting the mercenaries that the United States sends against us, the Somozist guards, and the traitors. But since we are defeating these people -- and they have no possibility of advancing and winning -- the U.S. Government wants to participate directly with an invasion of Nicaragua.

They have made efforts in Honduras. They have military installations in Honduras. They have troops in Honduras, but now they want to get Costa Rica involved. We want to tell you that we have reliable information, true reports, that the U.S. Government's plan is aimed at provoking an attack, or several attacks, from Costa Rica.

We have information right now that on a farm that is ironically called La Libertad, in Costa Rican territory, near the area of Guanacaste, bordering on Rivas [department in Nicaragua], CIA mercenary forces are concentrated to launch an attack in the next few days on Penas Blancas and Cardenas; there has even been talk of a date, 30 May.

According to some reports, they are waiting for President Monge -- who has been defending the neutrality policy -- to leave before launching an attack during which the mercenaries, the CIA, would kill either Costa Rican citizens or Costa Rican Civil Guards. The plans are to kill one, or two, or three, or four -- although one would be enough -- Costa Ricans and then blame the Sandinist Army for this. They would say that the Sandinists invaded Costa Rica and killed this particular citizen or Civil Guard, or two guards, or two civilians.

This is a concrete plan of the U.S. Government. Why? All the agents that the United States has in Costa Rica, including some Costa Rican Government officials, would immediately press for a break in relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and for the invoking of TIAR [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty]. TIAR is a Latin American defense organization, a military organization created for defense against attacks from outside the region.

The plan calls for invoking TIAR, but since TIAR probably will not respond to this type of invocation, then the United Stats -- claiming that it represents TIAR, even if it does not get TIAR's authorization -- will introduce its troops in Costa Rica and launch its aggression against Nicaragua from there.

The U.S. Government is continually looking for a pretext to justify its intervention, now with its own troops, against Nicaragua. The pretext they are seeking is Costa Rica. Why Costa Rica? Because Costa Rica is a country with a civil [civilista] image in Latin America, and because it does not have an army, although it does have a Civil Guard, police, etc.

The U.S. Government would present Costa Rica as a victim of the Sandinists. Then the United States will rush with its troops to help Costa Rica, and there begins the aggression against Nicaragua.

These are concrete plans that they are trying to implement. This is what prompted the National Directorate of the FSLN, with the backing of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, to issue a statement a few days ago calling for increased efforts in defense of the revolution.

This has meant the adoption of very specific decisions. For example, the National Directorate and the government junta have appointed Commander Jaime Wheelock delegate of the directorate and of the junta to oversee the entire 6th Region. This means that although Commander Wheelock is agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, he now has additional specific functions to which he is already dedicating a good deal of time.

The National Directorate and the government junta have made Commander Luis Carrion, a mbember of the National Directorate, representative for and given him authority and responsibility over this 5th region -- Boaco, Chontales -- and also over Special Zone 3 and Special Zone 2.

The 5th and 6th Regions right now are being given priority attention by the revolution. Therefore, a greater effort will be asked of all the organized people to solve problems that can be solved. The problem we will have to face first is the problem of the military aggression by the counterrevolutionary mercenaries. In addition to this, we will implement the agrarian reform in the 5th and 6th regions. Let the peasants receive land. Let them receive their land titles. Let's continue with the organization of cooperatives. Let unworked land go to the peasants immediately. Of course, let's do this in an organized fashion.

Let the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen, UNAG, present an organized report saying: Well, in this region we have this much unworked land and we, Tom, Dick and Harry, organized within UNAG, want to work this land to produce this and that, and we want this land, we demand it. And there will be an answer from the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry.

We were interested in pointing out that important steps have been taken in this regard. Other members of the National Directorate have also been appointed to other regions and special zones because we believe that this is the moment to improve the organization and participation of the people to face the U.S. military aggression. If the U.S. Government decides to implement the provocation plan from Costa Rican territory to invade us, let the United States be sure that Nicaragua will become another Vietnam, and that they will not defeat our people because this people will defend with fire and blood the freedom we have won. The organized people, all the Nicaraguan people, all the patriotic sectors, will make good Sandino's watchword of free fatherland or death. [applause]

[Manuel Sodembarro] Good evening. My name is Manuel Sodembarro. I am a militant member of the 19 July Sandinist Youth. I would like to appeal, in this "Face the People" program, to all the young people who are not enlisted in the Patriotic Military Service to enlist, since the idea is to defend the revolution and the achievements we have had in this municipality -- for example: the high school, adult education, the bridge, pensions for [word indistinct], and so forth. At the same time I ask the commander to give more information on the need for the participation of the youth in the defense of our revolution. Thank you. [applause]

[Ramirez] The task of defending Nicaragua in the face of foreign aggression is a task that falls, basically, to the Nicaraguans. This is a task [words indistinct] the victory that the Nicaraguan people have been consolidating against the CIA-directed aggression carried out from Honduras and Costa Rica. This victory has resulted, basically, from the heroism, dedication, and perseverance of the young Nicaraguans defending the fatherland. We have a glorious example of this participation in the struggle that the young people of La Libertad waged to defend San Juan del Norte, on the Atlantic coast. This was something the CIA had prepared as a propaganda blow against the revolution. They had thought about that blow for a long time. Basically, it was because of the companeros in this town that the blow did not have the propaganda effect the CIA had expected.

The alleged seizure of San Juan del Norte became a veritable defeat for imperialism and for [word indistinct]. It is because of this heroic defense of our positions throughout the territory that similar results are being achieved in many places. [2-second break in transmission] What the companero has just said is very true. The achievements of this revolution -- literacy, vaccination of children, the elimination of poliomyelitis, health centers, popular education, the mineworkers' pension, the right to have land through the agrarian reform, the right to have land to build a home -- must be defended with weapons in hand.

The Somozist guards and the traitors to the revolution who are being paid and trained by the CIA are not fighting against the Nicaraguan revolutionaries, against our people, against the FSLN in order to do things better than the revolution.

In Nicaraguan history we learned about the type of peace and progress that [1-second break in transmission]. No one is going to turn the assassin guards into democrats and freedom fighters overnight just because Mr Reagan says it. What they did in the past against our people they are doing again: murder, rape, fires. [2-second break in transmission]

We are not talking about defending a minority of large landowners, or of defending a particular political party. We are talking about defending the Nicaraguan people's right to life and peace, to enjoy this little piece of land that no one can [words indistinct].

JUNTA ENDORSES JOINT L.A. DEBT DECLARATION

PA251418 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 May 84

[Declaration issued by the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction -- date and place not given]

[Text] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, having learned about the joint declaration issued by the Governments of Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, and Argentina concerning the difficult economic situation confronted by Latin America, which is aggravated by the unjustified rise in interest rates, expresses its full endorsement of the position expressed by these Latin American governments.

From the outset of the revolutionary government's administration, Nicaragua has emphatically and firmly declared that it is necessary to establish a new and more just international economic order and that the Latin American countries, and developing countries in general, should adopt joint positions in the face of the grave foreign debt problem which unjustly and disproportionately burdens our countries' economies, prevents development, and affects the living standards of our peoples.

This unjust situation becomes increasingly acute considering that the interest rate increases are the result of the disproportionate military spending by the current U.S. Administration, its policy of monetary restriction designed to control its internal inflation rate, and its policy, favoring draining the financial resources from the rest of the world to the United States. The manipulation of the interest rates increasingly and artificially inflates the burden represented by the debt, making it unrealistic for the governments of financially attacked countries like ours to confront such a troublesome burden. This has been our position at the UN General Assembly, within the Nonaligned Movement, and at various other international economic and political forums since 1979.

Nicaragua declares itself willing to attend the meetings convoked to discuss these topics at the Latin American level, as proposed in the above-mentioned declaration, which we are endorsing. In the same manner, the revolutionary government trusts that it will be possible to organize a common front of Latin American countries, with common lines of action in connection with the foreign debt.

[Signed] Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction

MILITARY ACTIVITY, CONTRA CASUALTIES REPORTED

Clashes in Matagalpa

PA281559 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Approximately 200 counterrevolutionaries were annihilated by troops of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in two clashes in (San Jose de Bocay), Matagalpa Department, the AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA has reported. Lieutenant Juan Estrada has reported that on 23 and 24 May, the EPS heavy artillery destroyed the counterrevolutionaries' rearguard command post at the (Billy Wax) base inflicting more than 169 casualties. The EPS infantry forces annihilated approximately 30 Somozist guards. Two EPS battalions dislodged approximately 1,800 former Somozist guards who were around (San Jose de Bocay), forcing them to retreat north of the (Turuguac) base in the direction of the Honduran border. Estrada added that with this operation, the counterrevolutionary base where the mercenary troops had been stationed for the past 45 days was completely destroyed and the Rafael Herrera regional command under the chieftain El Trigrillo was completely broken up. The EPS forces also clashed with forces of the so-called Jorge Salazar Command under former Somozist Lieutenant Tono and with an independent task force that entered the country through San Andres and (Bobocay). In recent months, Sandinist forces have broken up the Segovia and (Buyagei) commands. The (Buyagei) commando group was headed by former Somozist guard Mike Lima. In the [most recent] operation, three EPS fighters died heroically and seven others were wounded.

Border Post Attack

PA281830 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Penas Blancas, on the southern border -- Approximately 100 mercenaries of the chieftain Cain [as heard] Pastora have been eliminated by the Sandinist Armed Forces this year. This announcement was made yesterday by Commander Roberto Calderon, chief of staff of the 2d Military Region. Commander Calderon said that the most recent attack took place last week against the San Pancho border post, a few kilometers away from San Carlos, Rio San Juan Department.

REACTION NOTED TO OLYMPIC NONPARTICIPATION

Boxer Stephenson

FL251202 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] We support the decision of the Cuban Olympic Committee, Teofilo Stephenson, three-time Olympic Champion, has stated after learning about our decision not to attend the L.A. Olympics. The U.S. authorities trample on the highest moral principles and on the Olympic ideals, and do not offer any guarantees to the socialist community's athletes for a safe stay during the Olympic Games, Stephenson stressed. The Cuban athletes were well prepared to do their best in the L.A. Olympics to win the greatest number of medals; however, because of the prevailing hostile environment, it would be impossible to compete.

Latin American Press

PA260355 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] The Cuban Olympic Committee's decision not to send a delegation to the Los Angeles Games because of the lack of guarantees and the violation of the Olympic Charter in that U.S. city has generated considerable reaction abroad.

The morning newspaper O GLOBO in Brazil said in a commentary that the Los Angeles Games are reduced by the absence of Cuba, which is Latin America's greatest sports power. The Argentine newspaper TIEMPO, published in Buenos Aires, asserts that Cuba's absence is an overwhelming blow to the Games, adding: The U.S. media are no longer hiding the fact that sidewalk stands are selling buttons with the slogan "Kill a Russian," and that a violent anti-communist campaign is affecting the Olympic Games. The morning newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Caracas said that Cuba's absence represents an additional decrease in the quality of Los Angeles Games, for it is very well known that the country's athletes are the best in Latin America.

Olympic Committee President

PA280105 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, president of the Cuban Olympic Committee, has said that the fact that Cuba will not participatein the Los Angeles Olympic Games is primarily the result of violations committed by the U.S. Government and its irresponsible attitude, which has rendered that beautiful athletic event just one more business deal. He made this statement while receiving an honor from the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists on his 70th birthday.

Blas Roca Calderio, a member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, who presided over the event, said that in the streets, the schools, places of work, public offices, and throughout the country, the Cuban people, who are great sports enthusiasts, can be heard making remarks in support of the government's decision not to participate in the Los Angeles Games.

CASTRO SENDS BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO KAMPUCHEA HEAD

BK270257 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State, recently received a congratulatory message from Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of his 50th birthday. The message reads:

Your responsibility in the party and Council of State of the PRK clearly reflects the loyalty to the cause of Kampuchea which you have displayed for the past 25 years in the struggle against imperialism and reaction. Your role as the most important leader of the Kampuchean people over the past 5 years has brought the young Kampuchean state immense success both at home and in the international arena. This shows the solidarity and vitality of the Kampuchean revolutionary advance. On this auspicious day, I would like to reiterate my pleasure concerning the development and strengthening of the fraternal relations between our two peoples, parties, and states. I voice full support for the correct cause of your people. Dear Comrade, I wish you success in your noble tasks and once again express my highest regards.

COMMENTARY EMPHASIZES CULTURAL COOPERATION

PA252230 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 May 84

[Station Commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. propaganda on Cuba's internationalists tries to portray them as soldiers who are involved in other countries' internal affairs. Following the attack that resulted in the deaths of 14 Cuban civilian internationalist workers who were working in Huambo, the U.S. media, including the VOA, falsely broadcast to the world that dozens of Cuban officers and troops died in the incident. Cuba has soldiers in Angola and Ethiopia at the request of those two countries' revolutionary governments, but the greatest share of Cuba's cooperation with underdeveloped countries is in the areas of construction, public health, education, and, finally, culture.

Cuba's cultural movement has become so important, in fact, that it has won firm prestige around the world and has allowed us to offer help to 15 nations in the so-called Third World and in Europe. In the last few years, Cuba has signed cultural cooperation agreements with Angola, Mozambique, Algeria, Benin, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Guyana, Poland, Spain, Italy, and Czechoslovakia. And until the brutal invasion of Grenada, we had a cultural agreement with that country, as well. The cultural areas included in these agreements are quite varied, sometimes being intergovernmental and sometimes involving cooperation program with sisiter organizations. The subjects include classic and modern dance, art, the cinema, museums, printing, drama, libraries, choreography, the construction of musical instruments, and the operation of cultural centers. The most important areas covered by these agreements are Cuba's provision of technical cadres from Cuban institutions, its donation of technical documentation and equipment, and the textbooks it prints, which are used in education.

Cuba, a country that practices a policy economic cooperation with various countries, is internationalist in the cultural area as well, a fact that the bourgeois media try to hide. For the Cubans, cooperation among peoples involve the most varied forms and characteristics, a genuine expression of their wish to draw closer, to help each other, and to share. For the Cubans, any internationalist task is beautiful.

WEINBERGER GULF STATEMENTS SEEN WORSENING CRISIS

FL261756 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] The Persian Gulf crisis today entered a new and extremely dangerous stage after statements by U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, which admit the possibility of the United States directly intervening in the conflict. Weinberger said this morning in Washington that he had received so-called intelligence reports indicating that the Iranians might try to bomb Saudi oil wells and send airplanes to attack merchant ships in the Gulf.

The U.S. secretary of defense called the situation in the Persian Gulf extremely serious and expressed his opinion that the United States should send Stinger antiaircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia. Such assurances were interpreted by international political commendators as a virtual threat by the United States to justify a direct military intervention in the region.

COMMENTARY RAPS ALLEGED U.S. PLANS FOR HONDURAS

PA281420 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 84

["Our America" commentary: "The United States Is Transforming Honduras Into a Large Military Base"]

[Text] On the eve of the second phase of the "Grenadier-I" military maneuvers, begun in Honduras on 1 April, new details have been learned confirming that the United States is transforming that Central American country into a gigantic U.S. military base. The extent of military installations built in Honduran territory indicate that specific Pentagon plans in this regard are underway. The nature of all these projects is definitely military and is aimed against the entire Central American region.

Honduras is already the leader in Latin America regarding the density of military airstrips in comparison to the area of its territory. The number of airports built or expanded by the U.S. Army in Honduras is 13. They form a belt of airstrips for military planes which skirts, with precision, the border areas of Honduras with Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

During the "Big Pines] 1 and 2" maneuvers, the U.S. troops built the airports of Mocoron, in the Honduran Mosquitia region on the border with Nicaragua, and San Lorenzo in the Gulf of Fonseca on the Pacific coast. The airstrips of Trujillo in the Atlantic and El Aguacate in the country's central-eastern were expanded.

The Jamastran airport construction, with an airstrip that measures 4,000 meters long and is located only 25 km from the border with Nicaragua, will be completed in the next few days. The Cucuyagua airport, 2,000 meters long and 55 km from the border with Guatemala and El Salvador, will also be finished soon. The Jamastran and Cucuyagua works were exclusively carried out by members of the 864th Engineering Battalion of the U.S. Army, while Honduran troops only carried out guard duties. According to U.S. military sources, these two airports will serve as the base for the second phase of the "Grenadier-1" military exercises. However, it is evident that they were built with plans to prolong the military occupation.

Do not forget that U.S. President Ronald Reagan said a few months ago that all the military installations built in Honduras are connected to the joint military maneuvers between the two countries. However, facts confirm otherwise. In fact, the U.S. Defense Department recently presented to Congress a report concerning the use of certain funds of the 1985 military budget. This document contains the plan to build a warehouse for ammunition and fuel in Honduras to be used by fighter planes. The report, signed by Taft, an under secretary in the Pentagon, indicates that the increase in the number of military installations in Honduras is aims at reducing (?the need) to rely on the transportation of heavy weapons in the event that the United States decides to invade a country in the area. For this reason, approximately 2,000 U.S. soldiers, who will participate jointly with Honduran and Salvadoran troops in the "Grenadier-1" maneuvers, are training.

To the Pentagon, the U.S. military occupation in Honduras has a very precise goal. Taft already disclosed something about these plans when he suggested that Honduras could replace Panama as the base of the U.S. Southern Command troops. As the expiration date for the Panama Canal Treaty, 1999, draws near, he stressed, we will have to consider alternatives to keep U.S. forces in the region.

SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS PROPOSE DIALOGUE

PA280037 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] The FMLN has issued a communique addressed to Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte proposing the initiation of a dialogue to find a negotiated solution to the Salvadoran conflict. The document, signed by the FMLN General Command, noted that Duarte must decide between two options: either to continue his growing subordination to the United States and prompt U.S. intervention in El Salvador or to accept a negotiated solution to the country's crisis.

It explained that the basic conditions needed to create a favorable climate for the negotiations are an end to the U.S. participation in the war, an immediate cessation of bombings of civilians, and an end to further deaths, missing people, and political prisoners in El Salvador. After stressing that Duarte's election was supported by $1 million from the CIA, the FMLN communique asked the Salvadorans to prepare to face any foreign interventions, to increase their struggle for their demands, and to actively support the democratic, revolutionary, and patriotic efforts to reopen a dialogue and thus continue the search for a negotiated solution.

NICARAGUA-COSTA RICA COMMISSION TO BE INSTALLED

FL252358 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] The Contadora Group's Supervision and Prevention Commission will set up headquarters tomorrow, Saturday, in the Costa Rican town of Penas Blancas to attempt to reduce tensions along the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments announced on 15 May that they will take whatever measures are needed to avoid further friction and asked for the mediation of the Contadora Group.

D'Escoto To Head Delegation

FL261325 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] The Supervision and Prevention Commission, set up by Costa Rica and Nicaragua, will be installed today at the border post of Penas Blancas. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto will head his country's delegation, which is made up of the deputy foreign ministers and others. One of those deputy foreign ministers will be the Nicaraguan permanent delegate to the commission, which was set up 2 weeks ago in Panama City under the auspices of the Contadora Group.

Panamanian Cited

PA260037 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera has reported that everything is ready for the installation of the Supervision and Prevention Commission created by Costa Rica and Nicaragua with the mediation of the Contadora Group. The commission, which seeks to eliminate tension between the two countries, will include two representatives each from the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments and one from each of the Contadora member countries. The installation ceremony will be attended by Cabrera and his counterparts from Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela.

GOVERNMENT BREAKS OFF IMF NEGOTIATIONS

FL251256 Bridgetown CANA in English 1143 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, May 25 (CANA-REUTER) -- The Dominican Republic, where more than 50 people died in riots last month, has said no to the austerity terms the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was trying to impose on it, President Salvador Jorge Blanco said last night. In a broadcast, the president said the IMF's terms for a renewal of a (?$450-million) dollar credit line were unacceptable. He said the Fund had been insisting on big increases in energy prices that would have been reflected in drastic rises in the price of other goods.

Last month's riots began when the government introduced price increases that the IMF had recommended. But after the bloodshed the price increases were revoked and the IMF and government went back to the negotiating table. When he announced the breakdown of the negotiations Jorge Blanco warned the nation that it would face more austerity with or without the IMF. The president asked Dominicans to prepare for even greater sacrifices. The Dominican Republic is saddled with a 2.6 billion dollar foreign debt and depressed world prices for its main exports, coffee and sugar.

Since the riots, commercial banks and official agencies have been providing the Dominican Republic with cash on the understanding that it would soon reach agreement with the IMF. President Jorge Blanco tonight admitted that there might now be problems with a recent agreement with commercial banks on rescheduling 550 million dollars of debt on easier terms.

The Dominican Republic has backed a call issued last weekend by the presidents of Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina for a meeting of Latin American foreign and finance ministers. The aim of the meeting is to look for ways to ease the burden of the region's debt.

BARTER TO BE PROPOSED FOR VENEZUELAN OIL

FL230220 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 11 May 84 p 1

[By Maximo Manuel Perez]

[Excerpts] The Dominican Republic will propose bartering sugar and bauxite for Venezuela's oil, and will seek to arrange an accord on the exporting of meat and beans to Venezuela. LISTIN DIARIO's sources said yesterday that several government commissions had met at the Foreign Ministry to organize the accords which will be presented to a high-level Venezuelan Government delegation, which will soon visit this country. The Venezuelan delegation will be headed by Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul.

According to the sources, the Venezuelan Investment Fund (FIV) has approved a $26.6 million package to the Dominican Republic.

DE CAMPS ON PLACING OIL ON PARALLEL MARKET

FL231828 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 18 May 84 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] Secretary of the Presidency Hatuey de Camps yesterday said that the decision to transfer petroleum to the parallel market would have an important impact on the national cost of living and for that reason the government has been trying to establish acceptable formulas to benefit the consumer.

De Camps, at the same time, recognized the intelligence and capacity of the former governor of the Central Bank, Bernardo Vega.

BURNHAM CRITICIZES ECONOMIC POWERS, IMF

PA271707 Paris AFP in Spanish 2044 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, 26 May (AFP) -- Guyanese President Forbes Burnham today said that the economic powers are trying to impose a new type of slavery and a return to colonialism on Guyana. In a speech on the 10th anniversary of Guyanese independence, Burnham listed the "maneuvers" by the industrialized countries to force Guyana to change its socialist and nonaligned policy. Most of Burnham's accusations were against the IMF's economic policy.

He stressed that the Dominican Republic broke off talks with the IMF, and that in Jamaica -- a "pro-American" country, according to him -- "even the capitalists criticize the conditions imposed by the IMF." He admitted that Guyana cannot meet its obligations with the IMF. He stated that his government is willing to continue talks as long as the IMF is willing. He stressed, however, that the conditions imposed by the IMF are "unacceptable."

In his speech, Burnham went to great pains to explain that the IMF "is controlled by the Western capitalist powers." He said, "The industrialized powers completely control or at least exert great influence on the IMF, which defends and promotes the Western capitalist system and forms part of the capitalist world's armament. However, Guyana's socialist policy is different from that of the IMF." He said, "I was told that Guyana would be helped only if we accepted the IMF's proposals and signed a new agreement." He stressed, however, that Guyana cannot under any circumstances accept the present terms of the agreement. He said that Guyana, whose area is 81,000 square km, "should own and control its own wealth." Burnham cited Canada and Great Britain as examples of countries that condition aid to Guyana to the signing of the agreement with the IMF.

After listing his country's main resources (especially agricultural products, mining, and fishing), he cited agreements with "friendly" countries like China [not further specified] and the socialist countries. Burnham ended his speech by saying that Guyana is currently engaged in talks with the World Bank to promote several industrial projects in the country.

Calls IMF Terms Unacceptable

FL281330 Bridgetown CANA in English 2129 GMT 26 May 84

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 26 (CANA) -- Financially beleaguered Guyana today marked its 18th independence anniversary with socialist President Forbes Burnham hinting that aid talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may collapse.

"They propose...probably sometime next month to declare that we are ineligible for further resources or funds..." Burnham told a government-sponsored rally to mark the occasion. He said the reason is that Guyana, whose last loan agreement with the Washington-based financial institution fell through some years ago, still owes the IMF money.

This former British colony, which, due mainly to shortfalls in export earnings, has for years now suffered from an acute foreign exchange shortage, has been seeking a 250 million dollar (U.S.) loan agreement from the IMF for balance of payments support.

But Burnham told today's rally, attended by more than 5,000 people including government officials and diplomats, that in the latest bilateral talks on the issue Guyana again found the proposed terms and conditions unacceptable. "The present terms put forward by the IMF are unacceptable and I want to repeat that, because there are some representatives of foreign governments in this country who delight in misrepresenting and misreporting what I say," Burnham told the thousands who had braved the inclement weather to hear him speak. "...First of all, they say immediately devalue the Guyana dollar to about six or eight to the American dollar (at present one Guy dollar; 27 cents U.S.), and that of course will have its effects on what you have to import from abroad. Immediately also reduce the government deficit by knocking off (retrenching) more people, immediately hike the price of all things, so that the little men, the small men, the small women cannot touch them."

Burnham referred to IMF negotiations with the Dominican Republic and the riots which followed leading to the deaths of 50-odd people, and also spoke about the aid talks between the IMF and Jamaica's Edward Seaga government. "Even now, he (Seaga) cannot get a programme even though he has followed their advice faithfully," Burnham said. Burnham explained that if a country became ineligible for IMF funds it would also be ineligible for funds from certain financial institutions.

The president said one of the difficulties which the government has with the IMF in coming to an understanding with the fund "is the (political) course which we want to follow, and the IMF admits we are a rich country with resources."

"The answer is not to surpress production, but to seek to increase production; the answer is not to go on a course deliberately to reduce employment, but to seek to find new areas of employment; the answer is not to seek to do everything in one year, but it is a question of saving and also a question of a different approach," he said.

Burnham, whose Peoples National Congress (PNC) marks its 20th year in power in a few months' time, disclosed that Guyana was talking with the World Bank about "their placing at the disposal of (this country) certain resources for the rehabilitation of certain industries and also for the purpose of modernisation of others."

The Guyana economy is dominated by a large state sector that includes the three main foreign exchange earners, bauxite, soap, and rice, all of which have been experiencing difficulty. President Burnham acknowledged that Guyana would have to obtain and pay for the services of managerial skills, but said employing a manager does not mean that "you are willing to give up eventual ownership and control of your property."
He called for stepped up production in the three key economic sectors and welcomed the fact that Guyana had produced upwards of 100,000 tons of sugar in the 1984 first crop for the first time in four years.

Seeks Alternatives

FL281600 Bridgetown CANA in English 1952 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 27 (CANA) -- Guyana's President Forbes Burnham says most Western Bloc nations, including Britain, plan to stop giving financial aid unless his government signs a balance of payment support programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Addressing an Independence Day rally here yesterday, he indicated Guyana's readiness to forge greater economic cooperation with the socialist world, including the Soviet Union, in the event of a cut-off in western aid. Burnham said most western countries were saying that Guyana, deadlocked in loan negotiations with the IMF, would have to "go it alone" unless it reaches agreement with the international lending agency. "Of course what they mean when they say you have to go it alone if you don't go with the IMF is that Britain will not give you loans or credit," the president said. "The (British) high commissioner has already called on the vice-president for production (Hamilton Green) and told him that if you don't sign up with the IMF... we are not going to give you even the loans that were negotiated before."

Burnham said the IMF's conditions for the loan were "unacceptable" to his government and to accept them would mean "signing (Guyana's) own economic execution."

Burnham said Guyana had already arranged lines of credit with socialist bloc countries for the supply of a number of consumer durables and industrial equipment including mills and tractors. He said Guyana had also reached agreement with unnamed socialist countries for exploiting local hydro-power resources. The Guyana president spoke of using the country's abundant bauxite resources to develop counter-trade with Japan and Soviet Bloc nations to get industrial goods for expanding the bauxite and other industries. He said the American-owned Reynolds Aluminum Company was negotiating with the government to form a consortium to operate here. Reynolds has announced plans to pull out of Jamaica.

MINISTER CONDEMNS APARTHEID ON AFRICA DAY

FL260146 Bridgetown CANA in English 2243 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 25 (CANA) -- Guyana today marked African Liberation Day with a government minister condemning South Africa's system of apartheid. Education Minister Ranji Chandisingh told a rally that Guyanese must remember "that elements of (the) iniquitous system (of slavery) are still being perpetrated as a way of life for millions of people in South Africa."

"Guyana must educate its own people about the evil machinations of imperialist forces which are trying to undermine the progressive movement towards peace and freedom," he said. The minister said "increasing numbers of Namibian and Zimbabwean students are studying at various levels in Guyana." He added that Guyana would continue its contribution "to that noble cause." He said true freedom required the adequate preparation of young people who would have to confront the challenges ahead.

Chandisingh added that since African Liberation Day was last observed in Guyana, the Caribbean people have witnessed the "tragedy of Grenada." "This serves as a reminder to peoples everywhere that the survival of freedom means constant vigilance, as freedom is guaranteed and maintained by determination and unswerving commitment to unity," the minister added. Guyana opposed the U.S.-led military invasion last October which ousted a left-wing junta.